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COVER PICTURE SHOWS:

A young Balinese girl

Believing in the freedom of the press, this journal represents a forum where articles containing many different, and often controversial, opinions are being published. They do not necessarily express the views or policy of the paper.

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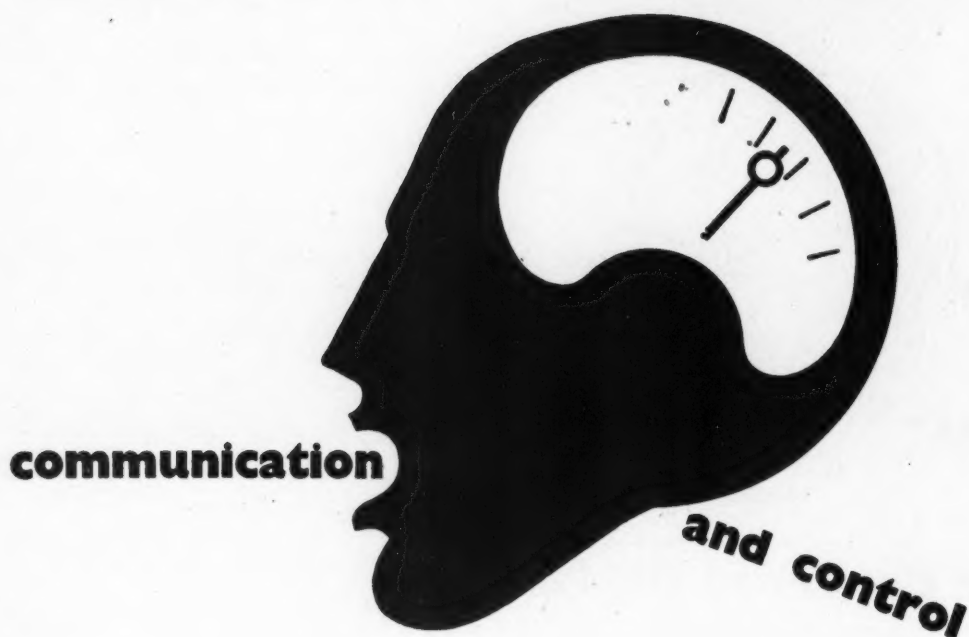
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EASTERN WORLD

AFTER THE ARMISTICE

"WHAT now?" is the question which occupies the mind in connection with the Korean armistice to such an extent that the signing of the long-averdue document gave rise to more expressions of doubt and insecurity than of rejoicing that the senseless slaughter is over. It is unlikely that fighting will flare up again, as the Korean war has established one or two facts which may well constitute a lesson in this respect. One is that China has now emerged as a big military power equal in strength and ability to the United Nations' forces; the other is that aggression does not pay: the invasion of the Republic of Korea by the North Korean forces was thrown back by the United States and some of the other members of the United Nations, while the invasion of North Korea by the forces under General MacArthur's command were successfully repulsed by Chinese intervention. It is clear that, after having driven the original invaders north of the 38th parallel, the United Nations forces were not within their rights to carry the war into North Korean territory, as it would have been the task of politicians and diplomats to seek a peaceful solution of the quarrel after the *status quo* had been established. This is a very important point to bear in mind at the present time, as it appears that the continuous efforts to deprive the Chinese Government of their rightful seat at the United Nations are based on the convenient surmise that China is an "aggressor" nation because she acted in keeping a predominantly hostile army off her frontiers, while it seems to be generally accepted that the United Nations army had every right to penetrate into territory north of the 38th parallel. The stalemate with which the 3-year carnage has now ended has found the two main contestants in countries which do not belong to either of them and if the United States can point out that the South Korean Government requested their presence, it is certain that China can point to a similar desire by the North Koreans. And if Mr. Dulles is crusading for a unification of Korea, he should find the fullest support from the Communists. The only question is:—who is going to rule the country. Nobody can possibly suggest a coalition government in which the lambs of South Korea will peacefully graze with those from North Korea. To envisage all-Korean "democratic" elections with the guns still smoking and the war wounds still bleeding, is equally unrealistic. There is no doubt that the North Koreans will be just as delighted to queue up for American food parcels as the East Berliners are doing in Germany, but the unification of Korea is a question which can only be solved within the

framework of an overall settlement in Far Eastern policy. And now is the time that some reorganisation should be attempted by both sides in bringing relationships on a sane basis.

No China Lobby of the US Congress, however powerful in Washington, will change the fact that the present regime has come to stay in China. To continue with the schoolboyish game of pretending to have a Chinese representative in the United Nations by allowing the military camp of exiles in Formosa (the poor Formosans have no say in the matter anyhow) to "represent China," is making nonsense of the whole conception of the United Nations. Either the UN decide not to sit down at the table with a nation which professes doctrines distasteful to the rest of the club—in which case the USSR and her satellites should be asked to withdraw or a White Russian camp created on Long Island to "represent Russia" on the Formosan pattern, or every nation should have the right to choose its own political and economic form of salvation—in which case the actual representatives of the real China should be admitted without delay and as a matter of course. If the "free world" is also a sane world, it should rapidly correct a state of affairs which will not only make it a laughing stock to future generations, but which was directly responsible for the war in Korea and for the chaotic unrealities in Far Eastern policy. If China's intentions would be discussed with her representatives at the conference table, the first step to a pacification of the whole Asian stage could be achieved. As long as we ostracise her from the concert of nations, we have no right to accuse her of putting up a "bamboo curtain" which is largely of our own making and which leaves doubts as to her intentions in Indo-China and other places. Thus, if no settlement with China can be reached by inviting her to take her place at the UN, there is a strong likelihood of our becoming involved in another act of the drama which would provide a change of scenery for the troops, but would leave us in the same unsatisfactory position as before.

Unfortunately, Chinese diplomacy has not, up to now, been allowed to play its part by Peking. It remains a puzzle why China has not reacted in a friendly way to Britain's recognition of the new regime. Surely it would have eased relations all round as it would have shown the world that China herself is willing to establish these "normal" conditions which her Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Lei Jen-min, last month described as most desirable. He was addressing the group of British businessmen which visited China under the auspices of the British Council for the Promotion of International Trade and which came to a business arrangement providing for an exchange of commodities to a minimum total value of £15 million in each direction. There seems no need to keep these contacts at the fringe of our relations, and the establishment of a Chinese Embassy in London and a warmer welcome to British diplomats in Peking, would substantially assist in the rapid development of close, friendly ties between the two countries.

WESTMINSTER AND THE EAST

by Harold Davies M.P.

IN this column last month, I wrote that the possibilities of a Four Power Conference seemed to be as remote as ever. This feeling was strengthened after the Foreign Affairs Debate on July 22nd and 23rd, when it became clear that the Government appeared to be unable to keep the initiative despite the creative freshness of the Churchillian approach to world events on May 11th. As Mr. Attlee said during the debate: "The Prime Minister's speech raised great hopes and the world was waiting for a new start and I thought we had got it." The Leader of the Opposition did not think that the Washington Conference was the continuation of the attempt to get a new spirit in the world.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. R. A. Butler, is over-burdened as acting Prime Minister and spokesman of the Foreign Office. I deliberately use the word "spokesman", because that is exactly what the Chancellor's speech appeared to be. On the state of the Far East and the Korean truce he was vague and perplexing.

The document relating to the Tripartite Conference published after the Washington Talks was strongly criticised by speakers from the Labour Benches. Mr. Herbert Morrison challenged the essence of the Paper thus: "In relation to the Far East, the White Paper adopts an attitude of looking for trouble . . . It seems to me that in relation to the Far East, the communiqué of the Foreign Ministers goes out of its way to pick out points that are likely to be provocative and troublesome." He felt that we had not preserved the right language and spirit in order not to say things that would make the other side feel that we are not genuine in what we are saying and urging. On page five of the Report on the Washington Talks I find this: "Considered that in existing circumstances and pending further consultation, the common policies of the three Powers towards Communist China should be maintained." Mr. Morrison seized this point. "As the policies of the Powers vary, I am not sure what the common policies are. That is not even convincing."

Mr. Attlee made a challenging speech which was loudly cheered by his own supporters. He paid special attention to the utterances of Senate leader Mr. Knowland who had been reported over here as saying that a Korean truce would not lead to an early recognition of Communist China nor weaken the US opposition to her admission to UN. Neither did we understand whether Knowland was prepared for a lifting of China trade restrictions. Mr. Attlee said: "In a struggle where the Americans have borne a great burden it must appear to them to be their fight, but it is a United Nations fight. The political settlement after the armistice is a matter for UN and we would press that right away the Assembly should be called." The problems of the unification of Korea, Indo-China, Formosa and Chiang Kai-shek were, he insisted, matters

for the Assembly. On May 11th Churchill had shown that Britain was still an important factor in world politics. Members felt that Mr. Butler had accepted a Foreign Office brief lacking initiative and independence and that this latest Foreign Affairs Debate showed that we had lost the Churchill initiative. Churchill wanted talks now. Eisenhower seemed to want talks if the enemy agreed before conversations began. Now we seem to be back again to barren double-talk.

The Commons was shocked when in the midst of the Debate the Chancellor of the Exchequer read out Syngman Rhee's statement that South Korea would be free to follow her own course of action unless the Chinese Communists agreed to leave North Korea within ninety days of the opening of the political conference that is to follow the truce. All this casts doubts on the sincerity of President Rhee, and Mr. Butler considered this "grave news". It is time, so many Members feel, that we knew how far President Rhee had agreed after his talks with Mr. Robertson, not to stand in the way of a settlement in Korea. Mr. Rhee is becoming the greatest asset that the Communists in Asia possess, and he and Mr. Dulles seem to be having a good time contradicting each other.

Sir Robert Boothby said that the new tune that Sir Winston had played had been muted for the time being. He considered that the notes which the Prime Minister had struck in the last Debate were fresh notes. "They were clear and they linger in the memory of many people all over the world." Boothby tended to highlight the differences within his own Party and appealed to the Labour benches not to cheer because it embarrassed him. He wanted us to orchestrate and learn the Churchill tune because it was one that can save our civilisation. But some Members said afterwards it seemed that "Bob" was singing a Swan Song for Churchill himself. Morrison's charge was that the Government had miserably failed, that they had, in effect, cast aside the Prime Minister and transformed what "was a hopeful gesture and an imaginative beginning" into a situation which will make things more difficult.

There is no doubt that here in Britain merchants are worried because of the loss of trading opportunities in the Far East. In some cases the Board of Trade seems to go beyond the limits of the United Nations Resolution of May 1951. Britain has not been able to insist that the restrictions of trade with China should be lifted as soon as an armistice is signed. The voice of Britain can only be effective in world affairs if we are economically strong and since the volume of our trade is alarmingly declining, the sooner that we can open up full trading opportunities with the Far East the better it will be for the economic health of the world and for strengthening the forces of peace.

ASIA IN WASHINGTON

By David C. Williams (Washington)

FOR years it has been an article of faith on the part of most American conservatives that China could have been saved for Democracy if only the Truman Administration had been willing to recognise the statesmanship of Chiang Kai-shek and be guided by his advice.

Democrats in Congress are therefore viewing with some private amusement the difficulties the Eisenhower Administration has been having with Premier Syngman Rhee of South Korea, already titled (using current American slang) "the poor man's Chiang Kai-shek."

Since Rhee all but torpedoed the Korean truce negotiations by releasing most of the anti-Communist prisoners of war, the United States, as one reporter put it, has tried to maintain "the forbearing attitude of a man being kicked in the shins by his employer's five-year-old son."

Sometimes this forbearance has worn very thin. In one of his letters to Dr. Rhee, General Mark Clark said: "Where necessary, the UN Command will, to the limits of its ability, establish military safeguards to insure that the armistice terms are observed."

Those who took this as an implied threat that US troops might turn their guns against ROK soldiers found further food for thought in what President Eisenhower said at a recent press conference. Direct quotation of the President is not permitted, but here is a close paraphrase:

"The enemy is still in North Korea; that is, the principal enemy."

Some voices have been raised in America to applaud Dr. Rhee's intransigence, and a few of these voices have even been raised on the left by individuals whose anti-Communist zeal outran their discretion. But, in comparison with what would have happened on the Republican side of Congress in case Dr. Rhee had treated a Democratic President in this fashion, the reaction of most Senators has been encouraging. Only the two most sinister men in the Senate—Senator Joseph McCarthy, a Republican, and Senator Patrick McCarran, a Democrat—have openly backed Syngman Rhee. Even majority leader Senator Knowland (called in times past "the Senator from Formosa" because of his enthusiastic support of Chiang Kai-shek) has attacked Dr. Rhee for his breach of faith.

The not inconsiderable number of Americans who supported Eisenhower for the Presidency on the ground that peace could not possibly be negotiated by a Democratic Administration subject to constant attack by an irresponsible Republican opposition, see in the course of events in Korea considerable justification for their views. Responsibility, they are saying, has had a real effect upon the Republicans.

Even with almost unanimous support from the American people in its quest for peace, the Administration faces serious problems in achieving it. As observers here

see it the President has these alternative courses of action:

1. To try to replace Dr. Rhee.
2. To sign a truce and fight the South Koreans if they resist it.
3. To cut off South Korean forces from American supplies and arms.
4. To try to get the ROK army to follow the UN instead of Dr. Rhee.
5. To give in to Rhee and resume the war.
6. To withdraw all UN troops.

There are, in fact, a good many people who feel that the United States might well follow the example of Britain when, confronted with an unfriendly and possibly hostile Egyptian government during the War, it sent tanks into the grounds of King Farouk's palace and compelled him to change his advisers and his attitude. Working directly with the ROK generals rather than through Dr. Rhee also has possibilities—these generals have defied the stubborn Premier before, notably when they refused to spare troops from front line duty in order to do some political-policing chores for him.

All the other alternatives are unpleasant in the extreme and the Korean situation as viewed from Washington looks dark. What began as a genuinely imaginative and courageous action, the first application of collective security in history, seems likely to be bogged down in a mire of intrigue and ambition.

Another Asian problem which is attracting increasing attention here is that of Indo-China. The cost to France of the Indo-Chinese War, little known or appreciated in Washington until recently, is being noted with growing concern. As it is seen here, the need is for France to implement her pledges of self-government with concrete steps towards training Indo-Chinese for the exercise of power. It is not considered here as wholly out of the question that Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos might themselves choose to be a part of the French Union—but this depends upon the Union transforming itself into something more like the British Commonwealth.

It is a pleasure to report, in fact, that the prestige of the Commonwealth here is steadily growing. There are still many Americans, of course, whose prejudice against "British imperialism" is so deep that they are even capable of believing—and firmly, too—that Canada and the other dominions pay tribute to the mother country. But, with the passage of time, Americans are coming to know and respect the ties that bind the multi-racial and multi-national Commonwealth. Lately, for instance, the Technicolor films of the Coronation have been seen by millions of Americans. To see Prime Minister Nehru walking in an honoured place in the solemn procession is a sight more instructive than many words.

INDO-CHINA

By Nicholas Read-Collins

WHEN M. Joseph Laniel recently ended the French political crisis by forming a right wing coalition government, there was great relief in Washington. For only days earlier, M. Mendès-France had almost formed a government after announcing he would consider an armistice in Indo-China. To American official circles, truce talks imply the risk of losing Indo-China to Communism. However, to French opinion, an armistice offers the only chance of ending a 6-year-old war costing £500m. yearly, and of covering a mounting budget deficit which last year was £700m. France has lost more than 30,000 killed and missing in the Indo-China conflict, which started in 1946 as a "three months' campaign" to break up Dr. Ho Chi Minh's Vietnam Republic.*

The French adventure—disaster is more descriptive—aimed to restore in restless post-war Asia an Empire by means belonging not to the era of the Atlantic Charter, but of 19th century colonialism. Were it not that America meets 46% of the war's cost, bankruptcy would have forced France to abandon the adventure long ago. For so much aid already given, the American State Department expects strategic dividends. The Eisenhower Administration now considers Indo-China of greater strategic importance than Korea, and has, without consulting the United Nations, declared that any Chinese intervention in Indo-China would result in the resumption of hostilities in Korea (presuming a truce had there been agreed). To thus involve again the Korean people in a war whose aim was to consolidate positions of strength would throw majority opinion in Asia even more against American policy. Both in NATO Councils and before American Congress, General Gruenther (NATO Chief of Staff) has advocated a military priority to Indo-China greater than that accorded Korea. Such thinking promises to make Indo-China the latest cockpit of power politics in Asia.

Against this international background there is boiling up in Indo-China itself one political crisis after another. The traveller in Hanoi or Saigon needs only a day or two before realising that years of unwanted French colonial rule, and not any sudden conversion to Marxism, have created a fertile climate for revolt. Most French administrators have a patriarchal tolerance for the childlike backwardness of the Cambodians and the Laotians, but not for the diligent and exploited Vietnamese. It is not

difficult to trace the origin of these emotions since it is the Vietnamese who constitute the greatest labour group in the mines and plantations—and know most about low wages and high profits.

French colonialism is not merely a matter of racial airs and graces. The function of French rule is to create conditions of "law and order" which permit the maximum exploitation of human and natural resources.† A few statistical references illustrate this process. From 1934-38 the national budget went into the red at an annual rate of over £1m., while private commerce (import and export) made a yearly profit of £6½m. Such an unbalanced economy could finance social and public services only on a niggardly scale. The *Statistical Annual*, 1941-42, revealed that for a population of 23m. (the size of Spain) there were four secondary schools. The provision of doctors averaged one per 38,500 inhabitants to one for every 240 for the French community.

The "Colon" (French settler) obtains indentured labour for his rice and rubber plantations. The planters, representative of a small wealthy class, have close financial ties with the Bank of Indo-China. Paid recruiters sign up labour for 3 or 5 years, a period which workers suffering from malnutrition at the outset often do not survive. Village headmen frequently act as go-betweens and receive a bonus for those villagers who are sent off to the plantations. This arrangement ensures that runaways who return home are quickly returned. On the industrial front one finds a familiar repetition of 19th century exploitation. The pre-war labour force, mostly employed in coal and anthracite undertakings, was small—about 225,000. The pre-war average miner's wage was under £5 per year, which was not sufficient for a subsistence diet let alone consumer goods. An example of the lack of purchasing power is seen in the Indo-China Sugar Refineries Company asking the French Government for guaranteed imports to France at a time when the consumption of sugar in Indo-China was a twentieth of that in France.

Unrest at French rule is not a product of the Japanese occupation. Between 1908 and 1940 there were seven rebellions and the leaders were sent to the island penitentiary on Pulau Condore. There they remained in spiritual communion with men like President Soerkanjo of Indonesia imprisoned by the Dutch in New Guinea's Boven Diegal, and Premier Jawaharlal Nehru jailed by the British at Amritsar. The issue in 1945 between France and the Vietnam Republic was simply the latter's demand for dominion status similar to that accorded India. But France, suffering from lost prestige at the end of the war, was in no mood for concessions to what was regarded as

* The Republic was set up in January, 1946. It comprised the three administrative regions Tonking, Annam and Cochinchina. The whole of Indo-China consists of Viet Nam with Cambodia and Laos.

† Dislocation created by the Japanese occupation, and limited post-war French control of Indo-China make difficult any comparison of pre-war and post-war statistics in general; post-war living conditions are less favourable than pre-1940.

precocious nationalism. A solution was attempted by force, and force has failed, in spite of artillery from Britain, planes from Australia, carriers from America, napalm bombing and economic warfare. In the diplomatic field there has been an equal series of failures. Attempts to exploit racial and political animosity have tended to unify factions by mutual distrust and dislike of French policy.

As head of a pro-French administration in Saigon, Bao Dai was to become a national rallying point in competition with Ho Chi Minh. But this separatist venture has attracted little support. Bao Dai has so far been unable to hold national elections because the greater part of the country is outside his writ. It is enough to recall that in the Hanoi municipal elections early this year Bao Dai's opponents gained all but one of the 23 seats. This supports the view of some correspondents that given free elections Ho Chi Minh would claim a majority. General national elections were held in the Republic as early as January, 1946. French attempts to create dissension between Bao Dai's Vietnam on the one hand and the kingdoms of Cambodia and Laos on the other to a large extent explain the confused situation within the two monarchies. King Norodom Sihanouk who rules Cambodia (a country the size of the United Kingdom) recently spent a week's voluntary exile in Siam in protest against French delay in transferring full political independence. By leaning heavily towards France, the King is losing the confidence of his people whom he governs with a cabinet recruited mainly from members of the Royal Family. Within the Kingdom there are several reformist and liberation movements of which the Khmer Issarak (Free Khmer) hill-based guerilla campaign is the most potent. Khmer is the historic name of the powerful kingdom with close ties with India which preceded modern Cambodia. The Khmer Issarak belongs to an alliance between the Vietnam Republic, Cambodia and Laos. The Cambodian army is French controlled and French citizens continue to enjoy extra-territorial rights. King Norodom announced two months ago that he could not guarantee the loyalty of his people should there be a general Khmer Issarak campaign. There are reports that the King went to Siam to avoid being involved in such an uprising. His hasty return was due to Siamese reluctance at being involved in any issue which might interfere with the role she is now playing in American Asian policy. Though there is now outward quiet in Phnom Penh, the capital, this is more the result of the circle of French artillery about its perimeter than any satisfaction derived from concessions still being discussed.

Laos, about double the area of England and Wales, is ruled by the pro-French King Sisavong Song. Eight years ago he was deposed by the Lao Issarak (Free Lao) movement when he refused to become a constitutional monarch, but he was later restored by the French. Prince Souphanou Vong, leader of the resistance Government, has since led an independent government of Pathet Lao (the historical name of the country) which is recognised by the Vietnam Republic. For many months now the Pathet Lao Libera-

tion Army has been able to choose the time and place of its guerilla operations against French troops. The recently headlined "Invasion of Laos" seems to be a deliberately concocted fantasy either to excuse French inability to prevent these periodical guerilla attacks, or to provide the United States with a "reason" for bringing to the United Nations' notice the whole Indo-China situation. The military facts are simply that French forces have on no occasion made contact with the "invasion" forces (not surprising in guerilla war as distinct from invasion) and French reinforcements sent to the area were no more than 1,000. These facts also make nonsense of a lot of wild guesses about a Peking-sponsored invasion, now possible because of a relaxation on the Korean front.

It is of importance to note that the Pathet Lao government forms part of a loosely formed ethnic "Free Thai" movement which may soon become a new and important force in south central Asia. It appeals to some 15-20 million Thais who have spilled out from their traditional home in the Yangtse valley across south west China, north Vietnam, Siam, Burma and the Shan States. The Thais in China have recently been granted autonomy by Peking and have their own administration at Cheli in Yunnan province.

It is clear that without American intervention France cannot win the war or even attempt to negotiate from strength. Will then America intervene as a logical step in her policy to contain communism, and if so what will the Chinese reaction be? It is equally evident that the building up of NATO defences can proceed no further while the regular French army is deployed 8,000 miles east of Paris. The whole scene is further complicated by French suspicion of American designs in Indo-China. There are uneasy recollections of American support of Ho Chi Minh's demand for dominion status in 1945. These feelings have not been pacified by the recent "Laos aggression" which the United States used to press Siam into bringing before the UN Security Council. French embarrassment was clearly indicated by M. Letourneau (Minister for the Associated States) when he said he was making an inventory of the pros and cons of submitting the matter to the UN. Had aggression really taken place, there would have been no need to have weighed up the advantages of appealing to world opinion. French circles were afraid that international discussion might force upon them liberal measures in Indo-China they are not prepared to take, and that UN mediation might mean opening the door to American advisors whose activities might weaken French control.

China entered the Korean war to protect her frontiers and the power installations which lie along them. She has too much internal reconstruction on hand to have aggressive designs in Asia. In any case there is no economic motive. She is well supplied with both agricultural and mineral resources. If however UN troops (predominantly American) advanced through Indo-China to the Tonking-Kwansi-Yunnan border, China would no doubt behave as she did in Korea. The aid which China may have given to date in the Indo-China war is a subject for speculation. If it

exists at all then only Peking can give the figure. Correspondents' estimates range from 3,000 tons to 250 tons monthly. The average monthly delivery of American military supplies is 7,000 tons. Chinese aid seems to be another evergreen excuse for French failure to gain a decision. What the Quai d'Orsay and Capitol Hill seem incapable of understanding is that Asian nationalism does not have to be primed by Communism before it will work. Asian Nationalism has its own momentum. Vietnamese nationalism has a morale vastly superior to that of French forces who oppose its growth. How else can be explained the fact that the Vietnam Republic appears more stable

today than when the war began six years ago? It is significant that most Indonesian and Indian papers strongly came out on the side of the Vietnam Republic in the "Laos invasion." It seems the Western powers have shouted "Communist wolf" too often.

I well recall the Indonesian slogan "We would rather die in an Indonesian hell than live in a Dutch paradise." Most Vietnamese would say "Amen" to that. And what nonsense it is in Asian eyes for America or Siam to seek UN intervention in a conflict created by French unwillingness to provide the very liberties the UN charter is pledged to safeguard.

PERSONALITIES AND POLITICS IN THE PHILIPPINES

By J. W. T. Cooper

THE recent elections in Japan and the impending election in the Philippines indicate that the political climate in the Pacific is becoming decidedly unsettled as far as the West, and the United States in particular, is concerned.

Two factors dominate Filipino politics at the moment, with a third lurking just on the fringe: first is the question of corruption, and second, relationship with the United States. The third issue, which is by far the most important, and to which no political faction will at the moment commit itself, is the question of poverty and reform in the countryside. On the first two issues, accusations and recriminations are flowing thick and fast between the party protagonists.

The first broad sign of a move away from a pro-American sentiment was the result of the 1951 election for members of Parliament and Provincial Governors, at which the opposition party, the Nationalistas, gained a large number of seats from the Liberals who were then, as now, the Government party. Many members of the Liberal Party openly placed the blame for their losses on the shoulders of Ramon Magsaysay who, as Liberal Minister of Defence, used certain sections of the armed forces to prevent intimidation and coercion at the election, thus stepping hardest on the toes of his own party.

Mr. Magsaysay's reputation in the Liberal Party was not enhanced by his action at the election, and the long foreseen break came when President Quirino put a stop to the Minister of Defence's successful campaign against the Hukbong (formerly Hukbalahap). This Communist-dominated organization, whose operations in central Luzon (the northernmost of the chain of islands) are closely parallel with the terrorists' in Malaya, has been a complicating factor on the Filipino political scene since the defeat of the Japanese in 1945. The Huks came into existence during the war to harass the occupying Japs with guerrilla activities. Not long after the war, under the regime of Roxas, Liberal President before Quirino, the Huks and their leader, Luis Taruc, were denied an active part in political life, with the result that they took to guerrilla

activities once more. This situation was particularly anomalous, to say the least, since General MacArthur removed from Roxas and Quirino the stigma of collaboration with the Japanese, while Taruc and his followers, who had been in secret touch with MacArthur's headquarters in Australia during the Japanese occupation, were allowed to drift into violent and lawless opposition.

As with other movements in Asia which have had as their aim the liberation of the peasants from a wretched state of misery and land starvation, the Hukbong has had its leadership captured by Communists who have been well schooled by Moscow and Peking. Although Taruc is himself a Communist and sincere nationalist, earlier leaders of the Huks were avowed Socialists and mild left-wingers. There is no doubt that the peasants, who form the bulk of the Huk forces, are in revolt simply because they see no other way out, and because the simple Communist argument that those who work the land must own it, is more appealing than a whole lot of arguments about political reform at the top. Although the Huks have not been as active recently as they were two years or more ago—due to Magsaysay and, no doubt, the lack of communication with the mainland of Asia through which incentives and supplies for organizations of discontent flow easily—the nucleus of rebellion is there. Should the political atmosphere in the towns, with the approach of the election, be such that corruption and party bickering allow of no free expression by the peasants, it is very possible that the voice of the countryside will make itself heard through the medium of the Hukbong.

It was Magsaysay's recognition of the factors which motivated unrest in the countryside that led him to undermine the rebellion by putting simple reforms into practice, not only among the peasants, but in the army which was very poorly organized, and whose confidence and backing was necessary before he could undertake the military campaign against the tougher elements of the Huks. Altogether the Minister of Defence showed great initiative in his campaign against the rebels, combined with sensible and

human treatment of them when he was successful. President Quirino, seeing a danger to his position as head of the Liberal Party and Government by the heightened prestige of Magsaysay, who was being acknowledged as the country's ablest politician, terminated the anti-Huk operations. Furthermore, the President has no time for reforms.

Last year the American Mutual Security Agency, which has been giving heavy financial help to Quirino's Government for a long time, strongly recommended that a comprehensive programme of land reform be undertaken, because the present land tenure system prevented the development of stable and democratic institutions and threatened the very existence of the country. President Quirino disagreed with the M.S.A.'s assessment of the situation and rejected the recommendation as unworkable in the same peremptory manner that he rejected the report of the U.S. Economic Survey Mission in 1950, which found inefficiency and corruption rife in Government circles.

Earlier this year, after Ramon Magsaysay had resigned from the Government and from the Liberal Party in disgust at their policies and had publicly condemned their corruption, the Nationalista Party adopted him as their Presidential candidate. This was an astute move, since the party's traditional anti-western, particularly anti-American, appeal could be wedded to the personality most identified with anti-corruption and reforms. Even so it is difficult in the confusion of Filipino business and politics to know exactly what the fundamental policy of the opposition is. The dominant personality behind the Nationalista Party has long been José Laurel, who headed the puppet Government under the Japanese during the war. Laurel has always been identified with the anti-American section of public opinion, and it is known that he is loud in voicing the slogan "Asia for the Asians," but evidence shows that he and others of his party have, in the past, been no less inclined than the Liberals to resort to graft and corruption to achieve their political ends. Because of the party's nationalist aims it has been branded by Quirino as pro-Communist and pro-Huk, but such a charge is no more than a harsh electioneering point. The party's adop-

tion of the former Minister of Defence as its Presidential candidate may show a tendency towards a more democratic expression of Filipino aspirations. The Nationalistas have gained considerable support in the towns in the last two years, and if the election is run on correct constitutional lines, it would not be surprising if Magsaysay was the next President. To ensure that malpractices do not occur this coming November, the more democratic elements in Filipino politics have formed an association which will, through various centres established throughout the country, guide the people in their rights as voters.

President Quirino's position has been further weakened by the disastrous split in his own party. When Quirino got himself nominated as Presidential candidate at the recent Liberal Party convention in Manila, General Romulo, recently Philippines Ambassador to Washington and delegate to the United Nations, and himself a candidate for the nomination, walked out with a number of his supporters, who included the vice-president, Fernando Lopez, because the ballot was not secret. This provides further evidence that Quirino has set himself up as the immovable, all-powerful, head of the Liberal Party. Since his defection Romulo has formed a new party called the Democrats, for which he himself is standing as Presidential candidate. Members of this new party have attacked Quirino and his Government in strong terms for their weak and reactionary leadership and economic avarice. And recently rumours were current that a levy which foreign business concerns in the Philippines were paying on import licences was going to swell Liberal Party funds.

While all this political shadow-boxing and mud-slinging is going on the peasantry wait for the long overdue reforms. Whatever the outcome of the election in November, there will remain much to be done in the way of social services and the relief of poverty, and it is certain that the next President will be very unwise if he ignores the seething discontent throughout the countryside, since such situations breed the sort of chaos on which international Communism thrives.

SHIFTS IN AUSTRALIAN POLICY

By A. Barcan

SINCE the end of the war there has been a swing in Australian foreign policy away from Great Britain and towards the United States. In the last year the imposition of import restrictions on goods from Britain and the exclusion of Britain from the Anzas Pact between the United States, Australia, and New Zealand (as well as the contrast between Britain's recognition of Communist China and Australia's non-recognition) have all emphasized this turn in Australia's external affairs.

A survey of recent developments will show that the

new foreign policy is by no means a complete reversal; nor has it been a sudden occurrence.

Geography has gone a long way in determining the basic lines of Australian foreign policy. The relative infertility of the country (predominantly pastoral rather than agricultural) has been a factor limiting the growth of population, as compared to a similar-sized country like the United States. As a result of her small population (and its distribution away from the northern and western coastlines) Australia has always had to depend on outside powers for the defence of her shores—Britain's Navy, and now that of the United States.

A second consequence of Australia's small population

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and large area is that her immigration policy becomes a significant issue in her foreign policy—both from the viewpoint of attempting to increase her population, and of attempting to decide where that population will come from (i.e., the "White Australia Policy," which is still something of an issue in Australian-Asian relations).

A third result of the limited population is a limited internal market, so that the country must have economic outlets. Australia has never experienced anything like that long period of self-sufficiency of 19th century America. She has always had to look outwards. So far this has taken the form of exporting primary goods (wool since 1820, and after 1900 wheat also), and exporting them to Great Britain.

The aftermath of World War II brought special problems to Australia in the sphere of world relations. The face of Asia was changed, and with it Australia's relationship with all the Asian countries which are her nearest neighbours. Since 1939 three rival trends have been struggling in the making of Australian foreign policy—the influence of growing Australian nationalism; the influence of links with Great Britain; and the influence of links with the United States. Also since 1939, Australia has established and extended her overseas diplomatic service. Her overseas investments, particularly in Malaya, have been of some importance. In the immediate post-war period she attempted to lead the second-class powers at U.N.

The great industrialisation stimulated by the 1939-45 War, which served to protect Australian industry from overseas competition, promised to make Australia an exporter of secondary industry products as well as primary. There was talk of tapping the potential market of the Near North. Had this occurred then Australian policy in East Asia might well have continued to become stronger and more self-sufficient. But from 1945 to 1950 Australian industry was unable to meet the demands of the home market. When the replacement boom collapsed and it finally appeared that secondary industries might have to seek abroad for markets the position was unexpectedly saved by the import restrictions (due in the first instance to the disappearance of London sterling reserves), and a further bout of artificial protection was given to Australian manufacturers. Whether Australian industry, with its high costs of production due to the high Australian standard of living, could have made anything of the East Asian market, with its low purchasing power due to the low standard of living, is probably something which will never be shown.

The influence of links with Britain has persisted, but less strongly. These links are partly economic. Australia continues to find a market in Britain, but now Britain's Australian market has been cut down. British capital continues to be invested in Australia, but on a diminishing scale, and at the January 1952 Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference the Australian Treasurer found that British Government policy was that preference would be given in investing abroad to British colonies.

The war revealed Britain's military weakness in the

Far East (suspected in some Australian quarters well before 1941). But Australia is still interested in the Suez Canal, as part of her trade route with England. She is still sufficiently concerned with the Near East to send an air wing to Malta (July, 1952). At the same time links with the United States have grown. American post-war investment in Australia has been considerable, while dollar loans have been sought by Labour and Liberal Governments alike. American armed strength in the Pacific has increased as British has waned.

In 1941 Australian nationalism was finding its own feet, venturing towards a more independent foreign policy. Suddenly it was confronted with the two-fold crisis of Japanese militarism and British impotence. "Australia looks to America, free of any pangs as to our traditional links of kinship with the United Kingdom," said the Prime Minister, John Curtin. By 1949 Australian self-confidence was growing again, as a result of war-time economic expansion and an enhanced international prestige in the post-war world. When Australia was confronted with Communist China, and a rearmed Japan, one form of reaction was support for the Colombo Plan, a scheme in which Australia has a great influence. Another form of reaction was to lend support to Britain in Malaya, by the despatch of an Australian air squadron (June, 1950). Nevertheless the major tendency was a swing towards the United States. In March, 1950, the Australian Minister for External Affairs told an American audience that Australia wanted to build up a relationship with the United States similar to that existing within the British Commonwealth. When, in September, 1951, the Anzus Pact was signed the Minister for External Affairs told Americans that "Membership of the British Commonwealth no longer means that Australia plays a subordinate rôle to the United Kingdom, or that any policy that the United Kingdom may formulate necessarily governs Australia." England had joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation without Australia. Now Australia joined the Anzus Pact without England.

Australia still has an interest in Europe and the Middle East, but she also has a permanent and vital interest in the Pacific. "We are a Pacific nation first—our geography makes us so. Our destiny lies in the Pacific. This is an interest which far outweighs that of any European power, no matter how great that interest may be" (*Sydney Morning Herald*, December 2, 1952). Australia's outstanding foreign policy achievement in 1952, said the External Affairs Minister a month later, was increased co-operation with the United States.

The shift in Australia's position is quite clear. It has been implemented by all federal governments, both Labour and Liberal. The post-war bias in foreign policy towards Britain has gone. Many interests still tie Australia to Britain, but they are fewer than in the past. Many new links with United States have been found. And in some respects Australia's interests at times call for a course independent of either power. But an independent course has always been hard for Australia to follow, and is particularly difficult in the present-day world.

ASIAN SURVEY

INDONESIA

The policies of the two political parties, the Masjumi (Muslim) and Nationalist, are so opposed that a Government had still not been formed six weeks after the resignation of the former one headed by Dr. Wilopo. President Sukarno has no enviable task in finding someone to form a Government of wide representation. Indonesian politicians, it seems, are inclined to be academic in their approach to the country's problems and the needs of the countryside are not real enough to the members of the parties who are not elected to Parliament from constituencies. An electoral register has not been compiled. Prominent people in West Java and other troubled areas have been expressing the urgent wish that a new Government be formed very soon, and that one of its first tasks should be to look into the dacoity and general unsettled state of parts of Indonesia. Not enough attention was paid to the problem by the last Government which was, according to its critics, confined to the cities, mainly Jakarta, and therefore remote from feelings elsewhere.

THAILAND

A four-power committee comprising representatives from Burma, the United States, Thailand and Nationalist China agreed last month to the evacuation of Nationalist Chinese troops from northern Burma. Consultations have been proceeding in Bangkok with certain of the Chinese Nationalist commanders from the force in north Burma.

INDIA

At a special ceremony held in Delhi last month the new Soviet Ambassador to India, I. Benediktov, presented his credentials to President Rajendra Prasad. The Ambassador said that he would endeavour to develop and strengthen relations between Russia and India and promote political, economic and cultural co-operation between the two countries. He also said that the Soviet Government was convinced that India was desirous of peace and the extension of international co-operation.

BURMA

The Burmese Foreign Ministry put out a report in the middle of July that small units, possibly not bigger than patrol strength, of Chinese Communist troops had entered parts of northern Burma. It was admitted that reports were unreliable, and it seems likely that it is just the sort of story that would be spread about by the evacuating Nationalist troops. However, Burmese troops in north-east Burma will no doubt be on the look out for any

possible Chinese Communist infiltration into the country after the departure of the Kuomintang troops.

PAKISTAN

Early in July the new Food and Agricultural Council was inaugurated in Karachi. The object of the council is to promote scientific and technological research in agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries. The Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammed Ali, said at the inauguration that because of the abundance of labour and the possibilities of unemployment, mechanization of agriculture had to be approached carefully. The Government is putting a short term plan forward for the wider use of fertilizers, greater pest control, and for bringing a larger area under the plough.

CHINA

An unofficial British trade delegation led by Lord Boyd-Orr, have come to an agreement with the Import and Export Corporation of China for the mutual exchange of goods to the value of £30 million. China is to receive electrical products metal goods, machines and tools and surgical equipment in exchange for oils, tea, silk, and egg products. It is pointed out in some British quarters that many of the items which the delegation have agreed to export to China come under the trade restrictions at present in force as far as China is concerned. No doubt both sides are looking towards a relaxation of such restrictions in the event of a Korean truce in the near future.

In a message to the Youth League Congress held in Peking last month, Teng Tzu-hui, deputy-chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, said it was planned to double the annual grain output of China over the next ten years. This is apparently necessary because of the increase in the urban population. Steps towards complete mechanisation would be taken and the steady conversion from individual peasant economy to collective peasant ownership on a voluntary basis was to be the goal. The conversion would have to be gradual, he said, because the peasants were, not unnaturally, keen on individual economy following land reform. This is one of the frankest admissions so far that it would be folly for the Chinese Government to introduce collectivisation too soon after handing over the land to the peasants.

CEYLON

The Government subsidy on rice has been abolished because of the large budget deficit. It is estimated that about 200 million rupees of public revenue a year have been used for the subsidy. To offset this move by the Government, the production of alternative foods, especially wheat flour, is being encouraged.

JAPAN

Before the meeting between representatives of the Japanese Government and American Mutual Security Agency officials in July, there was much misgiving among members of the Diet about the form the talks would take. The Socialists were rather anxious that nothing should be agreed about the National Security Corps fighting abroad. Mr. Okazaki, the Foreign Minister, said before the meeting that the Government was unable to say whether MSA help would be in the form of military co-operation or economic aid, but even if it took the form of provision of arms for the NSC, Japan would find it useful in relieving a financial burden. The Foreign Minister went on to assure the Diet that whatever aid was forthcoming from the United States, no interference in the domestic affairs of Japan would be allowed as a consequence.

It has been reported that the Japanese Ministry of Trade and Industry is contemplating a scheme for promoting exports by tax concessions. Together with the scheme, the Ministry was considering the subsidization of the iron and steel and coal and fertilizer industries.

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Malaya Hall Extension

Malayan students gave an enthusiastic welcome to H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent when she opened the extension of Malaya Hall. Amongst other distinguished visitors welcomed at the Bryanston Square headquarters of Malayan students in London, were the Sultans of Johore, Selangor and Perak, the Colonial Secretary Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, and the new Commissioner for Malaya, Raja Sir Uda bin Raja Muhammad. The new extension provides twenty-five further study bedrooms, library, billiards room and dining room.

Later in the evening Her Royal Highness attended the Coronation Ball given at the Dorchester by the Malay Society of Great Britain and the Malayan Students' Union. She sampled Malayan delicacies prepared by Rennie Chew from the Kirby Malayan Teachers' College and Tengku Katijah, granddaughter of the Sultan of Johore.

Thai Students' Association

The Samaggi Samagom, the Association of Thai Students in the United Kingdom is facing an unusual but highly encouraging problem this month. The annual meeting, which is held regularly in August each year and which has always in the past been held in one of the English Public Schools, is this year being held for the first time in Scotland. The Association had made arrangements to accommodate the usual total of three to four hundred members. But so great has been the demand to take part in the ten-day conference that efforts were being made this month to book extra accommodation.

Industrial Welfare

Sole Asian representative on the course for senior overseas executives held this month by the Industrial Welfare Society at Robert Hyde House, Bryanston Square, was Mr. A. Ramyananda, Chief of Administration of the Thai State Railways. He attended the course as part of his studies of social developments in Britain under the auspices of U.N.

Reception for Tensing

Many of the month's functions have had as a central figure the smiling Bhotia, Tensing, whose beaming face has made nearly as great an impression as did the smile of Queen

LONDON NOTEBOOK

Salote of Tonga during the Coronation period. One of the most notable of the many functions he attended was the reception given at India House for the members of the successful Everest Expedition, when he joined the High Commissioner, Mr. B. G. Kher, in welcoming the large number of guests. He cut a cake model of Everest specially made for the party by Miss Sehri Saklatvala, daughter of the late Shapurji Saklatvala who was for six years M.P. for Battersea North. She now works at India House.

Indians Overseas

Indians from Aden, Mauritius, East Africa, Fiji, Jamaica, Trinidad, South Africa and many other parts of the world were present at the first conference held in London this month by the Council of Indians Abroad. For two days the delegates discussed reports from Indian organisations. They adopted a resolution embodying the two main objectives of Indians overseas. The first objective is that all Indian settlers overseas should look upon the country of their adoption as their homeland, and sole object of their loyalty, and should be prepared to accept the duties and responsibilities of full citizenship in their respective territories. The second objective is that Indians overseas who wish to retain Indian nationality should be prepared to accept the status of friendly aliens, should not claim special rights, but should be assured of equality before the law.

After the conference the delegates were entertained to dinner by the

Indian Social Club. Dr. K. D. Kumria presided. Dr. P. C. Bhandari and Dr. R. Hingorani of London welcomed the guests, and Mr. B. Kher Singh of Malaya, Viscount Hailsham, and Mr. R. Seeneevassen of Mauritius replied. Mr. Kher Singh told the gathering that while they might still be thinking in terms of communities in Malaya, they were "in process of getting a new nation." Mr. Seeneevassen spoke of the devotion of Mauritius to the British conception of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Aid for Muslim Poet

Indians and Pakistanis in London combined to present a programme at St. Pancras Town Hall which attracted an audience of nearly eight hundred and is estimated to have realised a total of roughly £350 to assist India's great Muslim poet, Qasi Nazrul Islam who is at present living in South London. Nazrul was sent to Britain through the generosity of his fellow artists and writers to see whether he can be cured of an illness which has afflicted him for the last ten years. He is under attention by specialists and the Nazrul Aid Committee of Great Britain, formed by Indian and Pakistani Students in London organised the evening's entertainment to raise funds. Among those who attended were the High Commissioners for India and Pakistan, Mr. B. G. Kher and Mr. M. A. H. Ispahani who are patrons of the Committee, and the Burmese and Indonesian Ambassadors.

Muslim Association in Devon

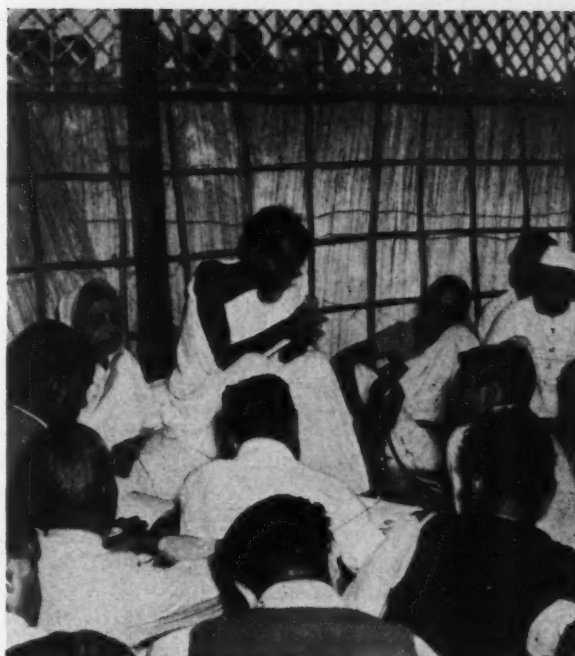
A correspondent in Devon reports the formation of a Muslim Association for Devon in which the moving spirits are students at the University College of the South West, at Exeter. Although the Association so far has only thirty members it aims at either building a mosque or acquiring a disused public hall which can be converted for use as a religious and cultural centre. Members are drawn from Pakistan, India, and Malaya as well as from half a dozen countries in Africa and the Middle East. They have chosen as their first president, Mr. Ibrahim Tako, Town Clerk of the Nigerian town of Bida.

IN THE STEPS OF THE MAHATMA

Austin A. D'Souza (Nainital, India)

FREE India has to face many complex problems. Some of these are new problems caused by independence and partition, but the most urgent and most intractable problem has been as old as India herself—the rural problem. India is a land of villages, and upon the immediate solution of this complex question will largely depend her continued security and progress as a free nation. It was because the Mahatma saw this so clearly, and worked for it so tirelessly, that he earned the right to be called the Father of the Nation. The Nation for him consisted mainly of the unnumbered millions eking out a precarious existence in hundreds of thousands of villages scattered through the land. He was deeply and intimately aware of their miserable plight—their body-destroying poverty and their soul-destroying ignorance; their land hunger; their cruel exploitation by the Mahajan and the Zemindar; their inability, because of their small, uneconomic holdings and primitive methods, to get enough from the land alone to support themselves and their families even on the margin of existence; and their crying need for "cottage industries" to supplement their agricultural earnings and make their villages happy and self-sufficient. Hence he concentrated his primary attention on ways and means of improving the economic and cultural lot of the peasants—the "Khadi" and "Charkha" movements and the Wardha Scheme of education being his practical remedies for the most pressing rural deficiencies.

Like the Mahatma, the present Government has placed rural reconstruction in the forefront of its programme for the reformation of the country, and in the Five Year Plan and the Colombo Plan gives it first priority. But noble aspirations take time to be realised in practice, and the last five years have shown that though the spirit has been willing, the obstacles to be overcome are tremendous, with the result that progress towards a solution of India's rural problems has been slow. Meanwhile millions of peasants



Acharya Vinobha Bhave at a press conference

are haunted by the grim and ever-present spectre of famine, and poverty and land hunger are on the increase. There has been far too much talk and far too little action, with the result that there is a feeling of intense disillusionment and frustration among the masses which may one day erupt with incalculable consequences. "Rebellions," said Francis Bacon, "are caused by two things—much poverty and much discontent. Rebellions of the belly are the worst." In India today discontent, poverty and hunger are so widespread that more than one responsible leader has warned the Government that unless something immediate is done to better the lot of vast numbers of peasants, a violent revolution is inevitable sooner or later.

The masses are in no mood to exist any longer on promises or to be content with post-dated cheques or visions of a Golden Age in the dim and distant future. Every party in India is beginning to realise this fact and, since the peasants can make or break any Government by sheer force of numbers, every party is wooing them with sweet words and fabulous promises. The Socialists have promised to expropriate the Zemindars without compensation and distribute their land to their land-hungry, exploited tenants. The Communists, profiting from the example of Mao Tse-tung in China, have skilfully played upon rural disaffection, and have concentrated on the rural masses to whom they are promising a rural paradise in which they will get all the land they want and in which Zemindar, middlemen, mahajans and others likely to poison this Garden of Eden will be liquidated. Since people who are starving and desperate will clutch at any straw, the Com-

munist bait has been swallowed by many peasants who voted quite a large number of Communists into the House of the People and into many of the State Assemblies in the last election.

The Congress Government is only too well aware of the urgency of the problem. They are abolishing Zemindari and are pledged to a wide programme of constructive social and economic rural reform. The Five Year Plan is an earnest of their good wishes and fond hopes for the future. But the masses are tired of waiting, and it is problematical whether their patience will extend to the five or six year period the Government needs to implement its plans for rural reconstruction. The need of the hour is, therefore, to find a short-term plan that combines the simplicity, directness and revolutionary approach of the Communists with methods more in keeping with the Indian and the democratic temper and genius of the people; a plan which will above all produce immediate, tangible results.

It is to the glory of Acharya Vinoba Bhave that he has discovered, or rather re-discovered such a way. The Acharya, on whom the mantle of the Mahatma has fallen in the social and economic field, has realised that the rural problem is fundamentally a spiritual and psychological rather than a socio-economic one. He has also deeply imbibed Gandhiji's teaching that the means make the end, and that India's rural problem will not, in the last analysis, be finally or fully solved by Five Year Plans or Multipurpose Schemes, essential though these may be, but by a change of heart in those who are obstructing the solution of the rural problem—the landlords primarily, the peasants themselves to some extent. The peasants, Acharya Vinoba Bhave has clearly realised, need food and land at once, and with the best will in the world, the Government will be unable to satisfy this desperate need in the near future. Two ways remain to endeavour to get the landlords to distribute their land among the peasants: force or persuasion. The Communists advocate the former; the Acharya, following in the footsteps of the Mahatma, has chosen the latter. *Bhoodan Yagna* is not merely a "Land-Gift" movement, in which the Acharya is endeavouring to entice gifts of land from the landlords for redistribution among their tenants; it is a spiritual mission of purification and regeneration to turn both landlords and tenants from hate, mistrust and violence to love, to social justice and brotherhood. The spiritual objective is a change of heart and mind in the landlords and tenants. The practical and immediate objective is to obtain 25 lakhs of acres of land from the landlords for redistribution among millions of landless labourers.

This psychological, spiritual and moral approach to socio-economic and political problems is in the direct Gandhian tradition, and is admirably suited to the peculiar genius and temper of the Indian people. It is no wonder then that it has produced immediate results. Acharya Vinoba Bhave started his mission of tramping through the country with a few disciples two years ago, when the Telangana disorder was at its height and even the military had failed to curb the Communists who were stirring up the

peasants into open revolt and into wreaking vengeance on landlords. When Acharya Vinoba Bhave announced he was to start his *Bhoodan Yagna* mission in this hotbed of hate and violence, cynics scoffed and even his friends and admirers were sceptical. But Vinoba Bhave induced many landlords to part with land to their tenants, and succeeded in turning the peasants from hate and despair to hope and reconciliation. He actually distributed more land among them than the Communists had done by their campaign of violence against the landlords.

Since that historic beginning, the Acharya, accompanied by disciples, has trekked barefooted through various parts of the country carrying his message of charity, sacrifice and social justice. By his purity of life, self-sacrifice and zeal, he impresses even those who are hostile to his ideas and his mission. The practical results of that mission have not been spectacular, for men's hearts are not changed overnight except in rare cases, but they have nevertheless been not inconsiderable. Vinoba Bhave has received from landlords throughout India and distributed among landless peasants more land than all the legislation in the various states has done, and he not only moves much faster than Government red-tape, but he leaves behind love and sympathy instead of the bitterness and resentment so frequently left behind even by progressive legislation like the Zemindari Abolition Acts of various States.

Bhoodan Yagna thus strikes at the root of the problem of rural reconstruction in India by creating the proper psychological climate of opinion and the necessary change of heart in landlords, tenants and the nation as a whole without which no final solution of the problem would be possible. And, what is perhaps more important, is that *Bhoodan Yagna* is not merely the ideal of a visionary: it works. Its relative success has shown that masses are quite ready to accept a peaceful and just solution to their difficulties and that they will only turn to violence if it offers the only hope of liberation from an intolerable lot.

Bhoodan Yagna is also true to the Gandhian tradition in emphasising the vital importance of keeping the villager contented and prosperous in his villages instead of driving him to the town to swell the rootless urban proletariat and feeding him to the machines that have become man's masters in the industrial field. This may affect India's industrial expansion, but it will promote cottage industries and village well-being which are the bedrock of India's greatness and future progress. Industrial progress is essential if the standard of living of the Indian masses is to be raised, but if it is achieved at the expense of rural reconstruction and rural well-being, it will do more harm than good.

Finally, though the *Bhoodan Yagna* movement is primarily a movement of spiritual, social and economic reform, its political implications and consequences cannot be ignored. It offers the peasant what Communism seeks to deprive him of—the freedom to call his soul and his land his own, and to live his own life, instead of being a serf of the all-powerful State.

THE INVITING ANDAMAN ISLANDS

by
H. I. S. Kanwar

*Chatham Island, Andaman
Island Group.*



THERE are vast potentialities in the Andamans, which, if made into realities, could make them a wonderful place to live in. The striking feature of the Andamans is their scenery, and but for the psychological effect of the term "Penal Settlement", for which the islands have been notorious in the past, they would have great attractions for tourists if only some trouble would be taken to develop them in the right way.

The early history of the Andamans is rather obscure. It was in the latter part of the 18th century that the islands first came into the limelight. In 1789, Archibald Blair, a British naval captain, made the first attempt to colonise them. Blair foresaw the possibilities of a small coaling station for the English Fleet in the Bay of Bengal. He also realised their strategic position in the Indian Ocean, almost midway between India and Malaya.

It did not take long for Blair to establish a colony on an island in the North Andamans, and name it after himself. After some time a better place was found for the colony further north, and subsequently it was moved up there. This colony was tried out for seven years. At the end of this period, in 1796, the newly established colony was closed down, mainly due to high occurrence of sickness and opposition from the aborigines.

The present site of Port Blair was established as late as 1858. This colony was initially set up to cope with the large number of military prisoners captured during the Indian Mutiny of 1857. Due to the heavy influx of prisoners, the colony grew rapidly, and became notorious as the "Kala Pani" Penal Settlement.

The Andaman Group comprises a number of islands situated in the Bay of Bengal. They are almost equidistant from Madras and Calcutta, the actual distances being 760 and 800 miles respectively. However, the nearest port of note is Rangoon, about 350 miles away. The Andamans consist of five large islands namely, North Andamans,

Middle Andamans, South Andamans, Baratang and Rutland. For easy reference, they are usually divided into three groups—North, Middle and South Andamans.

The whole archipelago can be squeezed into a rectangle about 220 miles long and 32 miles wide. Despite these dimensions, their total area is a little over 2,500 sq. miles. Due to the broken coastline of the islands, there are possibilities of establishing fine harbours. The only harbour of importance is that of Port Blair, the minor ones being at Port Cornwallis, Bonnington and Elphinstone.

The climate is somewhat moderate, despite the proximity to the Equator. This condition is due to the cooling effect of the surrounding waters of the Bay of Bengal, and the monsoons which bring rain throughout the year. The average annual rainfall is about 135 inches. Perhaps the only disadvantage is the humidity, which ranges from between 75 to 85 degrees, when it can be quite irritating. On the whole, the climate is warm and moist, but devoid of ill effects.

A number of islands in the Andaman Group are not populated at all, while the majority are only sparsely populated. The total population is hardly 25,000, although this figure does not include the aborigines, whose numbers it has not been possible to assess. A pleasant feature of the population is its polyglot composition.

The people inhabiting Port Blair, and other minor townships and villages, are the descendants of Indian pioneers, who came from different social levels and practised different religions. The outstanding feature of their everyday life is that they reside in the Andamans in perfect peace. They live as one community and as proud citizens of the Indian Republic. Though originating from all over India, they speak one common language, Hindustani, which has thus become the lingua franca of the islands.

The aborigines are of Negroid stock. The date of their arrival on the islands is unknown, but there are

authorities who believe that they came from Yunnan in South China some thousands of years ago. It may be interesting to note that the aborigines of the Andamans have racial affinities with the Aeta tribe of the Philippines, and the Semang Negritos inhabiting the jungles of Malaya and Sumatra. They are regarded as being in the lowest scale of civilisation, and have only a scanty knowledge of agriculture.

The aborigines offered stiff opposition to the British when the latter initially occupied the islands. With modern weapons the British overpowered them and drove them back into the jungles. Even to-day the Jarawa tribe are still dangerous, for they resort to their bows and arrows to attack their opponents at the slightest provocation. What is even more horrible is that a custom prevails among them, according to which they sever the head of their enemy and present it to their chief as a token of their victory and bravery.

The descendants of the pioneer Indians are still to be found in the Andamans. These also include descendants of prisoners either born in India or in the islands. In due course, the majority of these people settled down in and around Port Blair.

Since the beginning of the colonisation of the Andamans agriculture has shown encouraging results. Paddy has been grown successfully, but the total output falls far below the needs of the local population. Additional paddy, wheat, rice and other foodstuffs have to be imported. With the co-operation of the Forest Department, it is intended to deforest certain areas for the purpose of planting more paddy.

Experiments have proved that cashew-nuts, maize, and a variety of pulses can be grown easily. In the past, coffee, rubber and tea plantations were started. The tea experiment failed, and it is yet to be seen whether locally produced coffee and rubber will be able to compete in quality and price in foreign markets.

Fruit growing has vast possibilities. Citrus fruits, as well as papaya, pineapple, and mangoes grow easily. With these in mind, there have at times been proposals for establishing a fruit-canning industry. These proposals have since been put on paper and never developed any further.

Fishing also has potentialities but has not been tackled in the right way. It is well known that the seas around the Andamans abound in fish, although there are contradictory reports regarding the number of edible fish available. Before the Second World War, the Japanese carried out intensive fishing in these waters for trochus and other shells.

However, the main industry in the Andamans is timber production. The forests are being worked by the Government, and contain valuable species of timber. As this enterprise is still on a limited scale, there is vast scope for expansion. Amongst the important species of timber produced are padauk, silver grey wood, gurjan, white chuglam and papita. Despite the restricted scale of production there is room for exports, which normally take

the form of logs, planks, and even scantlings. All these are produced by the Government Saw Mill. Though the present exports are about 40,000 tons, there is a scheme to expand the figure to over 70,000 tons, but this depends upon shipping facilities made available.

The next industry of some importance is coconut production, which is mainly confined to the South Andamans. Coconuts and copra are exported to Bengal and Madras both for consumption and industrial use.

The Andaman Islands together with the Nicobars constitute a Chief Commissioner's Province, and are what is generally termed as a centrally-administered area. A regular and more frequent steamer service is being implemented, and an air service to and from India is being contemplated. There are adequate medical facilities on the islands, although these will need expansion due to the increasing population. Education up to the High School standard is available.

Although at present intercommunication between the main islands is by motor launch, a grand trunk road linking them is being planned. Owing to good medical arrangements malaria is kept in check. The general health of the people is good and cases of small-pox, cholera, or plague are almost unknown.

The Government of India have been keenly interested in the development of the Andamans. A party of experts visited the islands in 1949 to explore ways and means by which they could be exploited easily and quickly. Up till then, only five per cent of the total area had been developed. As the result of the report furnished, the question of increasing the population engaged the attention of the government, but the proposal to settle ex-servicemen and their families did not materialise as the scheme did not find favour with the people concerned. Since 1949, several prospective businessmen have visited the islands, and in 1951 prominent representatives from the public went there to see things for themselves. There was a ray of hope in their impressions, which appealed to refugees crossing over to India from East Bengal. Consequently over 1,500 families migrated to the islands, where the government gave them liberal concessions and amenities, in the form of allowances, milch and ploughing cattle, to start life afresh in their new homes.

Recently, on the basis of a detailed survey of the situation, the Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, has prepared a scheme for future rehabilitation of refugees. The scheme in short recommends deforestation of 20,000 acres in five years at the rate of 4,000 acres per annum. By allotting five acres of paddy land per family, it is anticipated that 4,000 families could thus be settled in the next five years.

Plausible as all the above schemes may sound, the biggest drawback existing is the absence of housing and accommodation, for which a tentative plan is called for, as unless this problem is solved rehabilitation is likely to be limited in scope, and therefore requires urgent attention of those concerned with the expansion of resettlement on the islands.

FROM ALL QUARTERS

Boys Build Their Own School

One of the problems which had to be faced in Singapore was the problem of the children who were uncared for largely as the result of the war. A scheme was devised which is supported by voluntary contributions. The idea was to provide a Boys' Town in which destitute boys would have a home and receive a good education. His Lordship, Bishop Olcomendy, provided the site on the Bukit Timah Road, and Brother Vincent of the Brothers of St. Gabriel first suggested that the boys should erect their own school building. This was actually carried out, with the help of prefabricated building materials. The boys who did the job varied in age between 9 and 15.



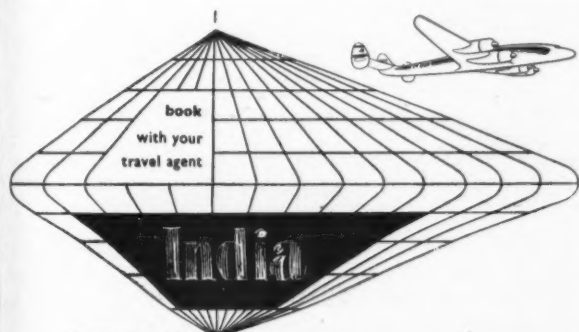
Boys of St. Joseph Trade School, Singapore

Ceylon and the Colombo Plan

Mr. Geoffrey Wilson, the outgoing Director of the Colombo Plan Bureau for Technical Cooperation, revealed

recently that during the two and a half years since the Bureau began to function it had supplied Ceylon with 69 experts and had given training facilities abroad to 268 Ceylonese. Negotiations are now going on for the allocation of a further 50 experts for Ceylon and for the training of another 172 Ceylonese. Ceylon has so far drawn the highest number of experts from abroad under the Colombo Plan.

Mr. Wilson will be succeeded by Dr. P. W. E. Curtin, who is due to arrive in Colombo this month.



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To Save Ceylon's Rubber

Ceylon's efforts to purchase a helicopter from the United States has had an unexpected result. The U.S. has refused to allow the export of the plane unless an assurance was given that this machine would not be used for the spraying of rubber plants against disease. The Americans have also requested a list of the purposes for which the aircraft is to be used.

It is presumed that the American objection to the plane's being used to spray rubber crops derives from Ceylon's sale of rubber to Red China, contrary to the American desire to prevent strategic raw materials from reaching Communist countries.

Joint Development of New Guinea

The Netherlands Minister for Overseas Territories, Professor Kernkamp, who has been visiting Australia, has spoken of the need for the closest cooperation between Dutch New Guinea and Australia in the development of oil resources.

Professor Kernkamp had talks in Canberra on cooperation between the two countries in the social and economic development of New Guinea. He said that

the Netherlands New Guinea Petroleum Company now employed a staff of 5,000 on the production of oil, most of which was refined in Australia. A second oilfield would go into production as soon as a 40-mile pipe-line, now under construction, was completed at a cost of £10,000,000.

Professor Kernkamp said that both Australia and Holland had accepted as a "sacred trust" the obligation to promote the well-being of the inhabitants of New Guinea. During his stay in Australia, he had found the greatest willingness on the part of the Government to cooperate in this work. It was recognized that Australian-controlled parts of New Guinea were more advanced than the Netherlands area but, on the other hand, Holland had more experience in developing tropical areas. He thought that a pooling of experience could operate only to the benefit of all parties.

The Viet-Nam Navy

At a recent ceremony in Saigon, Admiral Auboyneau, Commander of the French Naval Forces in the Far East, handed over to General Nguyen Van Hinh, Chief of Staff



Admiral Auboyneau (left) and General Nguyen Van Hinh. (right)

of the Vietnamese Armed Forces, 13 light river craft for use by the new Viet-Nam Navy. The Prime Minister, H. E. Nguyen Van Tam, members of the Government, as well as French and foreign officials were present on this occasion which marked the second stage in the plan for the creation and development of the Viet-Nam Navy. The first began in July last year, with the opening of the Training Centre at Nha Trang for training of officers and ratings.

The transferred craft consisted of landing craft, five of which were bought by the French Navy for their Far East Forces and 8 which were part of a gift of 20 ships recently delivered by the United States to the Navies of the Associated States of Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam under the American Aid Plan.

All these ships have been fitted out in Saigon and are fully equipped for their special assignments in South Viet-Nam which are to prevent any arms and equipment sent by Communist China via road, sea and inland waterways, from reaching their destination.

The officers and crews to serve on them are among the first to graduate from the Nha Trang Training Centre and have all undergone training in the French Navy.

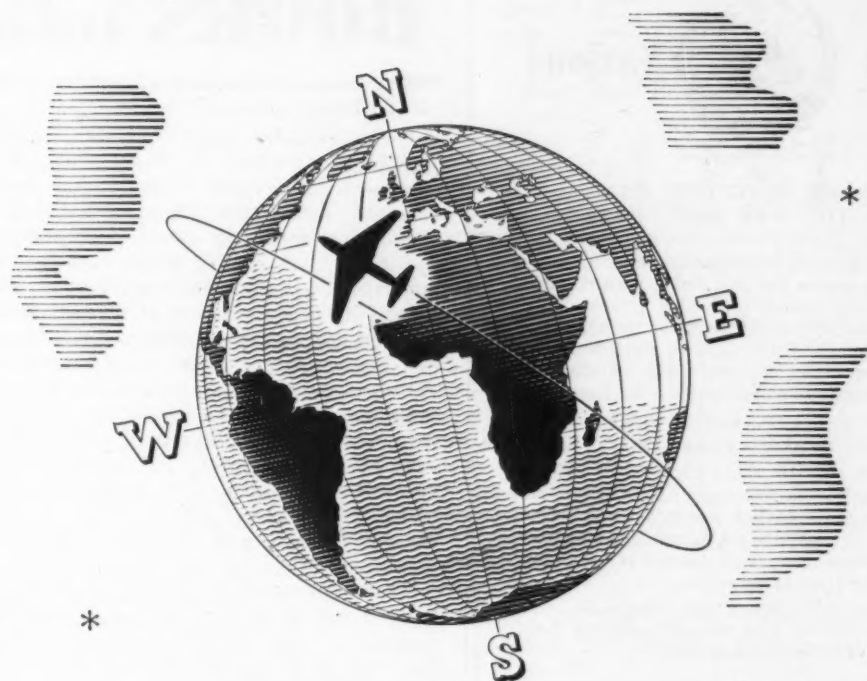
HOUSING PROBLEMS OF ASIA

THE urgency and magnitude of the housing problem in South-East Asia and the Far East was emphasised in the Report issued by the Mission of Experts on Tropical Housing which visited that region between 21st November, 1950, and 22nd January, 1951, as a result of a resolution taken by the U.N. Economic and Social Council. The Mission's Report declared that "the housing problem is far greater in Asia than anywhere in the world," and added that more than 100 million Asian families now live in crowded, insanitary, substandard quarters, and that in many instances, two or more families share a single room, whereby in a large proportion of these dwellings ventilation and sanitation are inadequate and there is little or no protection against vermin.*

Following the resolution adopted by the Committee on Industry and Trade of the U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in January, 1952, an Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials was formed. It held its first Session in New Delhi in November, 1952, which was attended by representatives of various U.N. specialised agencies.

The next meeting of the Working Party will be held in New Delhi in January, 1954, concurrently with the International Exhibition on Low-Cost Housing to be held there between 20th January and 5th March, 1954. The Exhibition is being organised by the Indian Government Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, and is primarily concerned with showing the advances made in various parts of the world in the production of low-cost housing. Factors of designs, building materials, methods of construction, equipment, machinery and tools will be exhibited. The Exhibition will include a Model Houses Section, in which the exhibited houses of one or two rooms should not exceed the cost of Rs. 5,000. The Government of India has invited other countries to participate in this Exhibition. The U.N. Technical Assistance Administration will hold a seminar on housing problems, while the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning will hold its Regional Conference in New Delhi in February, 1954.

*Housing in the Tropics, Bulletin 6 (United Nations, \$1.50)



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BOOKS on the

Parliamentary Government in Southern Asia by SYDNEY D. BAILEY (*Hansard Society*, 9s.)

This succinct appreciation of the working of the parliamentary system in India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon—Burma being without and the other three countries within the Commonwealth—is designed to stimulate research and discussion on what the foreword by Mr. W. L. Holland describes as of great and increasing importance. In its factual narrative of the developments leading up to the creation of the four sovereign nations involved it provides valuable material for the student, so too does its account of the general elections as the result of which the present Government of the Union of India came into power. The concluding chapter gives a list of the conditions to be fulfilled if parliamentary democracy is to work satisfactorily: (i) maintenance of the rule of law, (ii) public order, (iii) stability of government, (iv) honest and efficient public service, (v) opportunity for citizens to participate in government, (vi) readiness to abide the decision of the majority, (vii) social equality, (viii) economic welfare, (ix) willingness of the citizen to be loyal to national institutions, and (x) security from external aggression. This yardstick is formidable but its prescription just, provided allowance be made for human error. In reviewing so admirable an essay it would be churlish to draw undue attention to occasional lapses from complete accuracy but perhaps it is permissible to demur to the assertion that "only recently" India embarked on bicameralism. Leaving out of account the interim Constituent Assembly which both in India and Pakistan was given the dual function of a Legislature and a Constitution making body to facilitate the transfer of power in August, 1947, India had the bicameral system at the Centre and in certain of the Provinces from 1921 onwards. Mr. Bailey like some other authors overlooks the significance of the declaration by the Churchill Coalition Government in August, 1940, pledging the British Government after the war to accept a Constitution for India made in India by Indians. It is true that Mr. Leopold Amery who made that declaration was thinking in terms of an undivided India as, indeed, did Mr. Attlee in February, 1947 (though with the spectre of partition closer to hand), but, from the time it was made, that declaration brought what Mr. Bailey calls "unconditional surrender," but Mr. Attlee more correctly "fulfilment" on to the plane of actuality.

EDWIN HAWARD

Daybreak in China by BASIL DAVIDSON (*Jonathan Cape* 10s. 6d.)

China's New Creative Age by HEWLETT JOHNSON (*Lan- rence & Wishart*, 10s. 6d.)

These two books are very similar in the respect that they contain facts, obtained from experience, about life

FAR EAST

under the new regime in China which have not readily been available to the public before. But there is a dissimilarity in the presentation of those facts. The Dean of Canterbury does not write well, but he has managed to make his book read a little less like a Communist propaganda pamphlet than one would have expected. However, the difference between the Dean and Mr. Davidson, one feels, is that the former would excuse the Communists anything, so unreservedly does he support their doctrines, whereas the latter, because he is not a Communist and yet anxious to believe that the new regime is good for China, would conceal nothing in an effort to present the fairest possible assessment.

Mr. Davidson reports on what he found during a short visit to China in the summer of last year, and with sound reasoning, including those arguments which might be used to disprove his findings, concludes that the people of China are deriving enormous benefits under the present system. Dr. Johnson's approach is different in that he compares the situation during his visit in 1952 with that prevailing when he travelled throughout China 20 years earlier. He paints a picture of a nation whose dream has come true and who are all buckling to with broad smiles and thanks on their lips for "Chairman Mao." Mr. Davidson's picture is one of people rather surprised but thankful that the new regime is promising well, and who are interested more, for the moment at any rate, in their own welfare than in the future of the state.

The co-operation of the people in raising the agricultural output and of increasing industrial production is achieved by the initial and simple approach of giving them the freedom to work for their own benefit. It would be disingenuous indeed to release, with great huzzahs, the peasants from the grip of the rascally landlords and the industrial workers from the sweatshops of Canton and Shanghai, only to make it obvious that they were in fact getting little out of it for themselves. As Davidson says, you cannot drag people into working harder. If you do, they may seem to work harder but they will produce less and less. And you cannot inspire people by making them afraid. "Cowed workers do not take kindly to new ways of production," nor could they think freely for themselves.

Even if one cannot subscribe to Dr. Johnson's political views, and his comparisons and eulogy at times become tedious, a great deal of what he describes in his book, when polished clean of propaganda, is the truth—borne out by Mr. Davidson. As the latter says, it will "come unpleasantly to those who like to fool themselves that China is achieving her successes by dictatorial methods," for the "truth is that China's successes are being achieved—and can only be achieved—by the voluntary and even enthusiastic effort of most of the people of China."

J. W. T. COOPER

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Les Comptoirs Français Dans L'Inde Nouvelle by
DR. SAMBOO GOPALJEE (Paris : Fasquelle)

It is scarcely possible at the present time to read an Indian newspaper without coming across forthright speeches by politicians on the subject of the French and Portuguese possessions in India. Even during the British regime the foreign pockets were somewhat anomalous but since the independence of India the continued existence of Karikal, Mahé, Pondicherry and Yanam would seem to be seriously complicated since the Declaration by the French Government in the National Assembly on the 8th June, 1948, that it was its solemn intention to leave to the population of the French possessions in India the right of deciding on their future status.

The French approach to the problem can be looked at from military, constitutional and economic angles and also

from the angle of prestige. French political *amour-propre* is, undoubtedly inimical to clear thinking in France with regard to the genuine difficulties which on the available evidence would appear to be more constitutional and economic than anything else. In French official pronouncements great weight is placed on the constitutional provision that "no cession, no exchange of territory is valid without the consent of the interested population" that is, without a plebiscite.

On the economic side it has been argued that the French territories are themselves against changing the status quo as economically they enjoy a better standard of living than the people of the Indian Union. In this one is reminded of the familiar argument used during the British regime against the granting of independence to British India. The truth would appear to be that the impression of prosperity is partly illusory and the cause of it is partly artificial.

The territories are in fact financially dependent on the mother country. The economic prosperity, such as it is, comes not from the local manufactures but from the deeply entrenched smuggling practices which deprive the Indian Government of vast sums of revenue every year.

Dr. Gopaljee is an Indian who has been resident in Paris for many years. His book, written in the hope of bringing about a better understanding between the peoples of the two countries, contains within its short compass not only an account of the evolution of the French possessions in India but also a representative collection of statements

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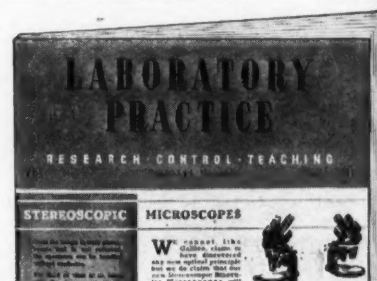
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made by French officials and politicians both in Paris and in the territories in explanation or justification of the French attitude. They are certainly indicative of the core of opinion which Mr. Nehru will have to reckon with in persuading France to relinquish her hold on the enclaves.

M. BASU

Religious Trends in Modern China by WING-TSIT CHAN
(Columbia University Press. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, 27s. 6d.)

Since this book is an expanded version of a series of lectures on the History of Religions sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies, it is clearly not intended for the general reader who has either little knowledge of comparative religions or little familiarity with the various tendencies which, during this past half century, have been changing the wrinkled face of ancient China. Yet even for those who have no specialized knowledge this well-produced volume is not unrewarding. There is, for instance, a great deal of invaluable information about the contemporary Chinese attitudes to the old "three religions" as well as to Mohammedanism and Christianity.

Dr. Chan has performed a useful service in gathering this material together from Chinese sources inaccessible to most western scholars, and in introducing us to many Chinese scholars who are less well-known in Europe and America than, say, Hu Shih and Fung Yu-lan. The chapter entitled "The New Awakening of Islam" was one that interested me particularly. In Ch'angan and Canton I have visited Moslem "oases" and been fascinated by the way these isolated and impoverished communities have retained their cultural integrity.

China must be changing, for Taoism is a dying faith. For years it has been moribund, and nowadays it is officially ignored. The magical world of wizards and immortal *hsien*, of elixirs and supernatural portents which has contributed so much to Chinese painting and folklore barely survives; and, as Dr. Chan says, "since Taoism underlies the religion of the masses, its decline is tantamount to the collapse of the people's religion as a whole." In another place he suggests that "if the life of Chinese religion had depended on a few leaders, it would have died out long ago. But Chinese religion has lived and continues to live, because it has been carried on by the masses."

There may be a contradiction here. Or it may be that the renewed impetus which the twentieth century has given to the cult of religious societies and the fervours which Communism is apparently able to produce in its devotees will—with the aid of that syncretic spirit which has long been prominent in Chinese life—turn the religious

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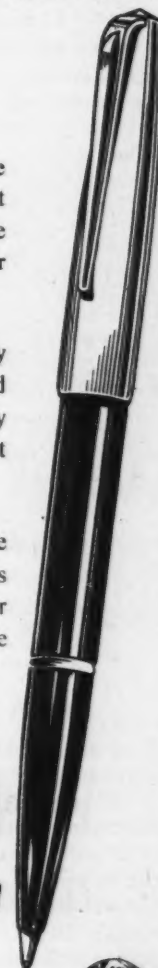
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impulses of the "masses" into new channels. That the eyes of the people will continue to be focused on the ground rather than on heaven, and that intellectuals will continue to stress the humanistic and ethical aspects of religion are among the tentative conclusions which Dr. Chan permits himself.

Though the impact of various religious attitudes on the pattern of modern Chinese society remains problematical, would-be prophets will find a lot of fresh material for their theories in this useful book.

BERNARD LLEWELLYN

Modern Indian Painting by P. R. RAMACHANDRA RAO
(*Rachana*, Rs. 37.8)

In 1837 Molaram, the last of the great Pahari painters, died. Since then, Indian painting, previously so secure in its purely oriental traditions, has been through a self-conscious, exploratory stage, the course of which has run remarkably parallel to the political pattern.

During the later 19th century, there was the unhealthy absorption of British Academism, followed by a nationalist cultural revival, headed by the Tagores, and leading to the formation of the Bengal School. Such reactions tend to be sterile, and since then it has been to Europe again, mostly to France and Italy, that Indian painters have turned for new means of expression. Internationalism is the key-note of contemporary Indian painting, but although the effort of assimilation has been heavy, there are many magnificent signs, some reproduced as illustrations to this book, that

the modern Indian painter is fully capable of making that effort successfully.

Amrita Sher-Gil, whose "Three Young Girls" appears on the cover of this book, was one of these. Although schooled in the Ecole des Beaux Arts, and absorbing so much of Gauguin's sense of form, and Modigliani's quaint and remote pathos, she returned to India, to the Ajunta frescoes, to Gupta sculpture, and to Kangra painting, to produce an effective and deeply moving blend of the best of both worlds.

There are others like her, notably M. F. Husain and N. F. Bendre, whose "After Work," a deliciously coloured study of two girls relaxing round the washtub, retains all the elegance and decorative perfection of its Moghul ancestry, but is yet instilled with life and fire by the passion of its Gauguinesque colours and forms.

Mr. Ramachandra Rao is an interesting and intelligent guide to the aspirations and achievements of this tentative, troubled, but sporadically highly rewarding period. His book is reasonably well produced; the colour reproductions, if few, are excellent, and they are supported by over 200 monochrome illustrations. One puts it down not with a sense of satiety, but of anticipation. The work of Srinivasulu, and certain younger members of the progressive Delhi Silpi Chakra, such as Bhabesh Sanyal, promise extremely well for the independent future of Indian Painting.

MICHAEL MARTIN

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JANTAR MANTAR OBSERVATORY

By K. M. Talgeri (New Delhi)

It has long been acknowledged that India's contribution to astronomy is of a very high order, and among the many astronomical marvels in India is the famous Jantar Mantar of Delhi.

Built in 1714 by Maharaja Jai Singh of Jaipur, a great student of astrology and astronomy, this observatory is now being restored to its former usefulness. The structures as they stand today need considerable repair and renovation. This has already been started under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Jaipur State Observatories.

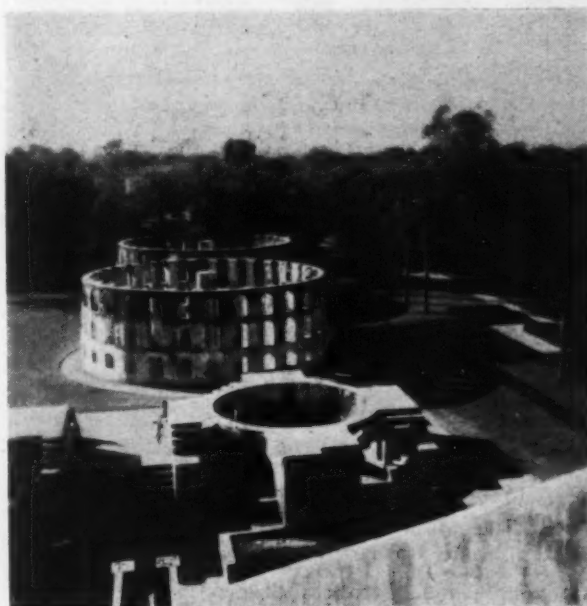
The builder of this unique observatory, Maharaja Jai Singh, was a scholar who had mastered *Surya Siddhanta*, the traditional Hindu system of astronomy. The origin and date of this work are not traceable. The dominant influence of the Graeco-Babylonian School of Astronomy had been felt in the East since the time of Selucids (313 B.C.-65 A.D.) and continued to be a living force when Europe, on the break-up of the Roman Empire, lapsed into barbarism during the times known as the Dark Ages. During these times the Muslims became the custodians of the culture of the Babylonians and the Greeks.

The Moslems based their astrological lore on Ptolemy's monumental work, *Syntaxes*. Known as *Al Maista* in Arabic rendering, this work appears later in Europe under the name *The Almagest*. But the Moslem scientists enriched this mine of astrological knowledge by their own empirical data. Maharaja Jai Singh studied it carefully from Moslem sources and it was known to him as *Mijasti*. He was also influenced by the elements of Euclid which he read from the translation of the 13th Century Persian astronomer, Nasir Ul Din. Among Moslem astronomers whose zeal for precision found an echo in Jai Singh's heart, may be mentioned Mirza Ulugh Begh (1399-1449 A.D.) and his assistant, Jamshid el Kashi. Mirza Ulugh Begh, a grandson of Timur the Lame, was a ruler himself and he erected an observatory at Samarkhand in 1425 A.D. His astronomical tables superseded those of Ptolemy and were the basis of Jai Singh's work.

Jai Singh's passion for astronomy became so great that he sent out emissaries to distant lands to bring back the riches of new scientific knowledge. Through the Jesuit missionaries who arrived in India he heard the faint echo of the happenings in Europe of the findings of Copernicus (1470-1542), Tycho Brahe (1546-1601), Kepler (1571-1630), Galileo (1570-1642) and Newton (1642-1727).

He invited great scholars to his kingdom and among them was Jouvier de Sylva, the famed Portuguese physician-astronomer who later came to be called Hakim Martin. Even to this day the descendants of this great scholar are

living in Jaipur and a road in Jaipur bears his name. From various sources like these Jai Singh acquainted himself with the principles and use of logarithms and trigonometrical ratios and also with the astronomical tables of Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal of Great Britain, and La Hire's *Tabula Astronomica*. To him astronomy was a stepping stone to astrology in which he took a lifelong interest.

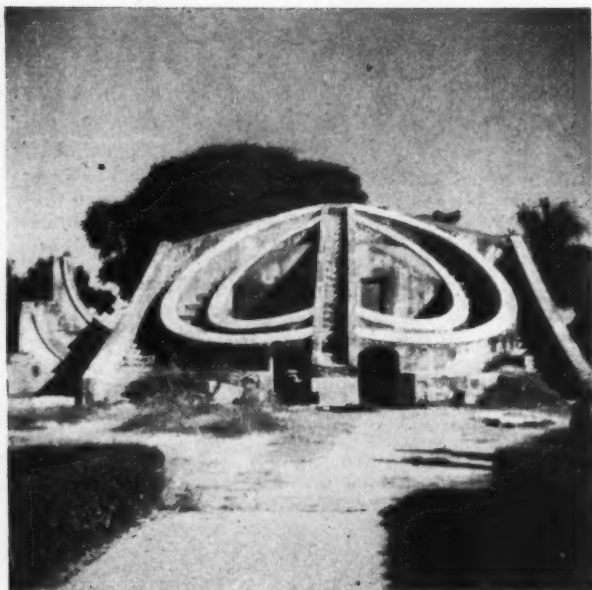


The Rama Yantra and the Jai Prakash Yantra.

Maharaja Jai Singh was completely dissatisfied with the results deduced from the calendars current in those days which did not confirm to exact empirical observations of heavenly bodies, so he put forward new theories based on experimental data and built astronomical observatories at Delhi, Jaipur, Benares, Ujjain and Muttra to make further investigations into this science. He had to depend on masonry for the construction of delicate instruments, as in his days the compass, the sextant and the theodolite were not available. Be it said to his credit, the firm and stable instruments he brought into existence were really marvels of astronomical science.

About 1724, Maharaja Jai Singh constructed his first observatory at Delhi in collaboration with Pandit Jagannath, a Telugu Brahmin, well versed in Hindu and Moslem astrological and astronomical lore and highly

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The Niyat Chakra Yantra, used for determining the declination of the sun.

proficient in Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian. With his aid, the Maharaja got the Arabic version of Ptolemy's *Almagest* rendered into Sanskrit under the name *Samrat Siddhanta* (literally, "the emperor amongst astronomical treatises") and Euclid's elements under the name *Rekhaganita*.

The observatory at Delhi, known as the "Jantar Mantar" (deriving its name from the Sanskrit word "Yantra," meaning instrument), consists of the Samrath Yantra, the Misra Yantra, the Ram Yantra and the Jai Prakash Yantra, the last two being in pairs.

The Samrath Yantra or the Equinoctial Sun Dial is the central figure of the observatory and consists of the right-angled triangle and two arcs called gnomon and quadrants respectively. The triangle stands exactly in the north-south directions with its longer side on the ground and the shorter one vertical to it. The quadrants are arcs of circles with their centres on the edges of the gnomon. The graduations of the quadrants serve to determine hour angles while those on the gnomon indicate the declination of the heavenly bodies.

The process is simple. In the morning, the shadow of the gnomon falls on the higher end of the western quadrant. It gradually descends with the rise of the sun and totally disappears at noon. When noon is passed the shadow again appears, this time on the eastern quadrant, and gradually covers the whole of it by the time the sun is completely set. The movement of the shadow is regular and corresponds with the time that elapses before and after the noon. The space on the quadrants being divided into hours, minutes and seconds, the coincidence of the shadow with any of the graduations at once tells the time.

The space between the top of the wall and the point where the shaft meets it has graduated markings from 0 deg. to 45 deg. Graduations from 45 deg. to 90 deg. are indicated on the shaft, the 90 deg. mark being at the base of the central pillar. At sun-rise the shadow of the pillar falls on the top of the wall, indicating thereby that the altitude of the sun at the time is zero. As the sun rises, the shadow on the wall moves downwards till it coincides with the point where the shaft meets the wall. At this time the altitude of the sun is 45 deg.

The Jai Prakash Yantra (or the Bowl of Berossus—after Berossus, the Babylonian astronomer, who opened a school of astronomy in the island of Cos about 280 B.C. and taught Greek elements of Babylonian astronomy and astrology), like the Ram Yantra, also consists of two parts. The same principle of making up parts of one so as to correspond with the vacant spaces of the other, has been followed here as well.

There is a hemispherical cavity in the ground plastered and polished and having lines to represent altitude, meridian, equator and zenith. The circle forming the rim of the instrument on the ground denotes the horizon and is divided into degrees and minutes. The lowest point in the centre stands for the zenith through which a circle passes. Circles indicating North and South Poles, equator, altitude and azimuth are drawn over it. Cross wires have been fixed exactly north-south and east-west and at the point of their intersection a circular piece of metal, having a hole in the centre, has been attached. The position of the sun is determined by its image through the hole.

The Misra Yantra or the Mixed Instrument is the most complex of all instruments at the Jantar Mantar and has (1) Samrath Yantra, (2) Dakshinodakabhitti, (3) Niyat Chakra Yantra and (4) Karkra Shivalaya as its principal components.

The Samrath Yantra, as explained before, is meant for finding time and declination of the heavenly bodies. Dakshinodakabhitti determines the altitude or zenith distance of a heavenly body when it comes on the meridian. It has a graduated arc on the eastern wall and is made exactly on the north-south line.

The Niyat Chakra Yantra has four semi-circles ending at the central gnomon, two of each on its east and west sides with their centre on the gnomon. It is used firstly to determine the declination of the sun at 6.56 and 7.27 in the morning and 4.34 and 5.9 in the evening, and secondly, to observe the noon of the four important observatories of the world. Noon at Notke (Japan), Serechew (Pacific Ocean), Zurich and Greenwich coincides with the time at which the shadow of the rod fixed in the central hole falls on the four respective circles. The Karkra Shivalaya has a peg fixed at the centre of the semi-circle engraved in plaster on the face of its back wall. This tells in what sign the sun is passing at the time when the first point of Cancer is on the meridian.

THE PRESTER JOHN MYTH

By D. S. Bailey

ONE day in the year 1122 an Asian ecclesiastic arrived in Rome and asked if he could see the Pope. An official whose job it was to receive foreign envoys, asked the priest where he had come from. "India," he replied. What was his name? John. His business? He wanted to see the Pope in order to tell him about the wonderful miracles that had been taking place around the shrine of St. Thomas who founded the Christian churches in South India and is said to have been martyred there. Unfortunately, the Pope was at that time engaged in some delicate negotiations with the Emperor, and it is doubtful whether he ever saw this visiting priest.

Thus began the story of Prester (presbyter, priest) John the priest-king who was supposed to rule over a remote Asian empire of Christians. At first little was known about this mysterious kingdom and its ruler, but as the years went by the outline of the story was filled in with imaginative detail. Bishop Otto of Freisingen, for example, added some information in his *Chronicles*. He said that in 1145 he had happened to meet a Syrian bishop in Italy and had learned from him the following story:—

"Not many years ago, a certain John who dwelt in the East beyond Persia, made war against the kings of the Medes and the Persians. He was a priest and a king, and he and his people were Christians, though Nestorians. After he had captured the capital city of the Medes called Ecbatana, *Presbyter John*—for so he was wont to be styled—advanced to fight for the Church at Jerusalem. When he reached the river Tigris, he found no way of transporting his army across, so he turned northward as he had heard that the river in that area was frozen over in winter. After halting on its banks for some years in expectation of a frost, he was obliged to return home."

When this anecdote became known, people called to mind the Asian priest called John who had visited Rome some years before. There was probably some anxiety among the papal officials. Had they been wise in denying his request for an audience with the Pope? Perhaps the strangely dressed priest had been a person of importance after all. Perhaps he should have been permitted an interview with His Holiness. Then the incident was forgotten until the year 1165 when the Emperor Manuel in Byzantium received a letter purporting to be from "Presbyter Joannes, by the power and virtue of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, Lord of Lords."

The letter was written in the most grandiloquent and august terms, for Prester John explained (with a surprising and unbecoming lack of Christian humility) that he was the richest and most powerful ruler in the world. He claimed

that no less than seventy-two kings owed allegiance to him and that his kingdom extended over the Three Indies, including Farther India where the body of St. Thomas was buried. He said that within his empire lay the place of sun-rising, the Tower of Babel, and the ruins of Babylon. He was the greatest monarch under heaven and a devout Christian.

When he went to war he was preceded by thirteen crosses of gold and jewels, each one carried in a chariot. Each chariot was followed by 10,000 knights and 100,000 foot soldiers. In his domains were no poor people, no thieves, no boasters, no flatterers, no misers, no lies, and no vices. His palace was modelled after the palace that St. Thomas had built for the Indian king Gondopharus. In front of it was a marvellous mirror on a multi-tiered pedestal, and in this mirror it was possible to discern what was happening throughout his empire and thus prevent conspiracies. He was waited on by seven kings, sixty dukes, and 365 counts. On his right hand sat twelve archbishops, and on his left hand twenty bishops, the Patriarch of St. Thomas's, the Protosope of Samarkand, and the Archprotosope of Susa.

The purpose of the letter was to inform the Emperor of his wish to visit the Holy Sepulchre and subdue the enemies of Christendom.

He added, as a sort of postscript, that if anyone should ask why, with all his power and splendour, he was content to be called "Presbyter John," the answer was that he was a humble man. And in order to add weight to this remark, he repeated that his chamberlains were bishops and kings, and that his chief cook was an abbot.

The arrival of this letter caused great interest and excitement. The facts recounted in it in no way contradicted what had previously been known about Prester John: the reference to St. Thomas, indeed, was thought to confirm the genuineness of the letter. It was copied and widely circulated: it is said that over 100 manuscript copies have survived.

In reality it seems probable that the letter was a hoax. It appears that Bishop Christian of Mainz had read Bishop Otto's report about Prester John and, being of an inventive and whimsical turn of mind, had attached to the person of Prester John all the legends and tales which had evolved around Alexander the Great over a period of many centuries. He then wrote the whole story up in the form of a bogus letter to the Emperor.

It is much easier to start a rumour than to stop one, and the capricious Bishop's jest was taken very seriously by the ecclesiastical and secular rulers of Christendom. Evidence appeared from all directions confirming the facts contained in the letter, and although the Bishop eventually decided that he had carried the joke a little too far, he found he could not turn back the clock. Prester John became as real a personage as Julius Caesar, and every year the legend was embellished by some new fact or corroborative detail.

Popes in those days were as credulous as Bishops were unscrupulous, and it is not surprising, therefore, to find Pope Alexander III accepting and perpetuating the legend. One day in the year 1177 he was told by a certain Philip, a physician in Jerusalem, that envoys had arrived from the King of Abyssinia who wanted instruction in the Christian faith. Pope Alexander—who like many of his contemporaries imagined that Abyssinia was somewhere in Asia—immediately jumped to the conclusion that the king of Abyssinia was Prester John. Remembering the proud letter received by the Emperor 12 years before, the Pope told the physician to go to the King of Abyssinia and warn him of the dangers of a boastful spirit. The physician departed and was never seen again.

The myth of Prester John did not disappear as easily as Philip, the pontifical physician. Prester John was now thought to be the King of Abyssinia, though the whole business was made infinitely more complicated by the supposition that Abyssinia was somewhere in Asia. And when a deputation from the Nestorian Church in Southern India arrived to see the Pope, confusion was worse confounded. Nothing the poor Indian Christians could say would convince the Pope that they were not paying a return visit for Philip, the physician.

The next stage in the evolution of the myth of Prester John came in 1221 when reports reached the Pope of the victories of a great Christian warrior said to be called Prester John who had just defeated the hated Moslems. Prester John must by now have been quite an old man as it was ninety-nine years since he was supposed to have visited Rome. What had no doubt happened was that the myth of Prester John had taken such a firm hold of Europe that every rumour of a distant king who was defying the Moslems was thought to refer to Prester John. The conqueror whose fame reached Rome in 1221 was, no doubt, Jenghiz Khan.

It might have been thought that the business was now settled, but the question had to be reopened a few years later when Friar John of Carpini, who had been sent by the Pope to convert the heathen in Asia, reported that although Jenghiz Khan was *not* Prester John, the Khan had actually fought a battle with Prester John, "King of the Christians in India," some years previously and had defeated him.

William of Rubruquis added some new information. He had visited the Great Khan about five years after John of Carpini, and he learned that Prester John was indeed a powerful Nestorian priest who ruled over a Christian Kingdom, which was a tributary of the Khan of Cathay (China). When the Great Khan died, Prester John's kingdom became independent. Rubruquis adds, rather testily, that there were too many rumours about Prester John and it has been extremely difficult to get at the truth.

In 1279, this version was elaborated by the Bishop of Acre. He had learned that Prester John was a descendant of one of the three Wise Men who had followed the stars to Christ's birthplace (which of the three it is not quite clear). Prester John had conquered the Medes and the Persians and was about to launch an Eastern Crusade on Mecca.

Marco Polo, who was in China from 1275 until 1292, helped to perpetuate the legend. He had been told that Prester John had once been Lord of the Tartars until Jenghiz Khan had defeated his armies in a great battle. Prester John had apparently been killed in the battle, but a descendant called George still reigned over Prester John's Christian kingdom about 300 miles north-west of Peking.

The next mention of Prester John occurs in 1305. Friar John of Montecorvino had been sent as a papal delegate to the Chinese Court and had been made Bishop of Peking. In one of his periodic reports to his superior in Rome he told how he had recently been successful in converting to the true faith an infidel Nestorian Christian called George, a descendant of the Great King called Prester John of India.

Soon there was a return to the Abyssinia theory and in 1316 Pope John the eleventh sent some Dominican monks to the Abyssinian Court, apparently convinced that he had at last discovered the mysterious kingdom. A map prepared in 1375 mentions that Prester John came from Abyssinia, and that the Christians of Nubia, under Abyssinian leadership, were constantly fighting the King of the Saracens. Throughout the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries it was assumed that Prester John's kingdom was really Abyssinia, and a map prepared in 1459 confirmed this. Successive Portuguese monarchs sent envoys to Abyssinia to convert the king and to open up the spice trade. Vasco de Gama heard rumours of Prester John somewhere north of Mozambique, and twenty years later Alvarez wrote a book on Abyssinia in which he referred to the king as Prester John.

To sum up, it would seem that for half a century after 1122, Prester John's kingdom was thought to be in one of the three Indies, i.e. in Asia. In 1177, the kingdom was identified as Abyssinia. In 1221, the location moved to Central Asia, and then a century later returned to Abyssinia. After 1500, references to Prester John get fewer. Taking it all in all, it cannot be denied that Bishop Christ's little jest caused a lot of excitement.

ECONOMIC SECTION

Town Planning in India

by Otto H. Koenigsberger

THE recent debate in the House of Lords has focussed attention once more on the new towns which were started under the New Towns Act of 1946 to provide for the overspill of population from the big urban centres. The public concern over the project, which was revealed in the debate, is justified not only because of the role of the new towns as remedies against overcrowding, but also because they offer a unique opportunity of creating the ideal background for twentieth-century living. As such, they represent a challenge to the skill of economists, planners, civil designers and architects, and the public is justified in watching their progress critically.

In trying to assess the achievement of the new towns of this country, comparison with similar projects in other parts of the world will be helpful. India has started more than a dozen new towns during the last decade, and there can be no doubt that the town builders of both countries stand to gain by comparing notes.

To make such comparisons useful, it is necessary to clarify how far the objects of the new town foundations of the two countries are comparable. The main purpose of the British new towns is re-distribution of population. This consideration exists, also, in the Indian projects, but it is of minor importance compared with other factors. These are:—

- (1) The housing of the labourers of newly founded industrial centres;
- (2) the housing of the civil servants and government employees of newly founded centres of administration, and
- (3) the housing and resettlement of displaced persons and refugees.

Accordingly, new towns in India can be grouped as *Industrial Towns*, *Administrative Towns* and *Refugee Towns*. An important feature of all three groups is the pioneering element which is associated with their foundation. New towns are built in regions which hitherto lacked the right balance between rural and urban settlements or were generally under-developed. The settlers in these towns are pioneers who voluntarily submit to certain hardships for the sake of benefits to their children and grandchildren. This accounts for two typical features of the

The author of this article was from 1948-51 Director of Housing with the Indian Ministry of Health, and Planning Advisor to the Indian Ministry of Rehabilitation. He was himself associated with the designing of eight of the new towns mentioned in this article.

Indian town foundations, namely, austerity and spaciousness. The life of a pioneer is hard and simple, but he could not be a pioneer if he were not an optimist and that is why he believes in the provision of ample space for the houses, avenues, schools, hospitals and public buildings which, he is sure, his children will add to the new town.

However, the austerity and simplicity—and that means the comparative cheapness—of the Indian new towns is due, not only to pioneering, discipline and self-denial, but, to a large extent, to climatic conditions. Most regions of India allow for outdoor living throughout the greater part of the year. This reduces the minimum requirements of accommodation and favours town plans with ample space for outdoor living. It facilitates simple beginnings—open space is easier to provide than houses—but, by favouring horizontal spreading of settlements, gives rise to many serious problems of transportation and services.

Industrial Towns

Typical examples of new Industrial Towns are Bhadravati in Mysore, Mithapur in Saurashtra, and Jamshedpur, Chittaranjan and Sindri in Bihar. They all owe their origin to the establishment of new industries far from existing towns. Bhadravati and Jamshedpur are based mainly on the steel industry, Chittaranjan on a locomotive factory, Mithapur on a chemical plant, and Sindri belongs to a large new Fertiliser Factory which was established by the Government of India to improve the agricultural output of the country. Bhadravati and Jamshedpur differ in size and age, the former being a small township of 20,000, not much over ten years old, while the latter was started as long ago as 1912 and has now reached the 200,000 mark, but both are based on the same planning principle: parallel strips of land of appropriate width are reserved for housing and industries. These are separated by a belt of open land, used mainly for recreational purposes. This system allows for almost unlimited expansion and ensures healthy living and nearness of houses to the open country and agricultural land. It has proved successful in preventing the dangerous interspersing of housing and industries which we know from many older towns in the East and West.

Administrative Towns

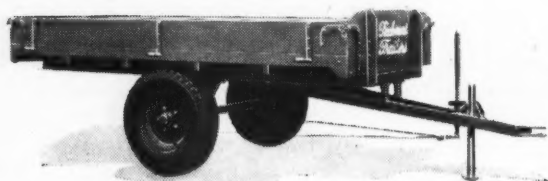
Administrative Towns are a feature of rapidly developing countries where regions of desert, jungle or steppe are reclaimed and settled. New settlements cause population movements, and eventually the need for a re-alignment of administrative boundaries and the setting up of new administrative centres. The task of finding accommodation for offices, courts and provincial parliaments and of providing quarters for the small army of civil servants which belongs to modern administrative machineries is, however, only one of the functions of an administrative town. More important is the need to give an administrative region a focal point—a centre of interest around which local patriotism, community feelings and civic interest can crystallise.

The two new administrative towns which are under construction in India are clearly intended to become such

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regional or provincial centres of public life. They are Bhubaneswar, the new capital of the state of Orissa, and Chandigarh, the new headquarters of the Indian Punjab. Both try to satisfy the demand for a new centre of provincial life, but try to avoid the one-sidedness of purely civil servants' towns which made Canberra and Delhi such dull places in the early years of their existence. Bhubaneswar takes advantage of the neighbourhood of famous ruins of a mediaeval metropolis and of a group of ancient temples which have remained a centre of pilgrimage throughout the centuries. Tourist trade, marketing and light industries help to provide the diversity of employment which is essential for the growth of a balanced community. Chandigarh is intended to become the intellectual and commercial centre for large numbers of wealthy and cultured Punjab families who were uprooted by the partition of India and Pakistan. Its favourable climate, its beautiful situation and good traffic connections place it in an excellent position for the achievement of this aim. Even now, after the completion of some 3,000 houses for Government employees, private settlers compete for sites in the new town, and building land is sold as soon as roads and services are ready. The administrative towns, more than other Indian towns, resemble British new towns because, like them, they are looked upon as manifestations of an ideal. They are to form the environment and background of twentieth-century living in a tropical country. As such, they are less dominated by austerity than other

new towns and the accent is on achievement in this generation, rather than on hopes for the future.

Refugee Towns

The largest and most important group, however, is formed by the Refugee Towns, Faridabad and Nilokheri in the Punjab, Ulhasnagar in Bombay, Fulia and Kalyani in Bengal, Gandhidam in Cutch, and Rajpura in Patiala. All of these are pioneering ventures designed to bring new industries, marketing centres, education and urban life into regions where life had been stagnant for centuries. The settlers, who come from the old established urban centres of Pakistan, have to make a fresh start and build up, in the midst of rough and primitive surroundings, the institutions, amenities and standards which they know from their past. Before they can do this, however, they have to solve the two primary needs of providing work and shelter for their families. This is indeed a pioneering task. Rewards can be reaped only by future generations. For the present, the settlers' life in the new towns will mean austerity and hard labour. If one takes into consideration that more than 80% of the refugee settlers come from middle class professions, one cannot but admire the spirit which made large numbers of them overcome caste restrictions and social habits and start work on their towns with their own hands.

Perhaps the most interesting among the refugee towns are Nilokheri and Faridabad in the Punjab. These two were the first towns to develop the principle of self-help by the settlers, who organised themselves on a cooperative basis, established training centres and built roads, services and houses without employing professional builders and contractors. Of the greatest interest for the planners of other countries is, however, the fact that these towns were designed as prototypes of regional economic units. Hand in hand with the foundation of the town, went the development of the surrounding agricultural area; new villages were established, roads built, and irrigation and improved cultivation methods introduced, always with an eye on the new town as primary consumer and marketing centre. On the other hand, institutions and industries in the town were designed primarily to serve the needs of the surrounding countryside. Town and villages together are expected to develop into balanced economic units which are expected to derive stability from inter-dependence and collaboration.

Special mention among the refugee towns deserves Gandhidam, which serves a dual role; it is the township for the new port of Kandla, which is being constructed on the West Coast of India to relieve the congestion in the harbour of Bombay and, at the same time, it is intended to open up the hinterland of Cutch, an under-developed region of great potentialities.

The plans for these towns were prepared by Indian planners, engineers, architects and economists. Names of planners like S. K. Joglekar, P. L. Varma, C. S. Chandrasekhara, M. Fayazuddin, Dharam Singh Kler, T. Manickam, and J. K. Chowdhury deserve to be mentioned in this connection. There has also been a good deal of

collaboration with planners from other countries, and we find associated with the planning of Chandigarh the American Albert Mayer, the Frenchmen Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret, and the English architects Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew. The Americans Frederick Adams and Roland Greeley have been working as consultants at Gan-

dhidam. Such collaboration is of particular value to all parties concerned. Great as the differences are—and this short article has mentioned only a few of them—the human problems in settling people in new communities are the same the world over and experiences in one country are relevant to the other.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING IN SINGAPORE

by Charles Gamba (Singapore)

THE population of Singapore—an island of about two hundred square miles—has today reached well over a million and a quarter. Much of the land surrounding the city is unsuited for building purposes, thus the problem of housing the people is becoming ever more involved.

Confronted with an increasing population in a restricted space, the Singapore authorities have been both imaginative and economic. It is true that for some time to come the housing difficulties of the city will require deep thought; but while a few years ago housing development was sporadic, today a new spirit is at work and even the local citizens are often amazed at the sight of new buildings which only a while ago were not there.

Behind this activity is the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) which, in the words of the Ordinance creating it, was to provide for the improvement of the Town and Island of Singapore. For some years prior to 1927 some of the functions of the Trust had been carried out by the Singapore Municipality. But then Singapore had only 400,000 inhabitants. In those days there was a slum problem and some overcrowding but nothing to compare

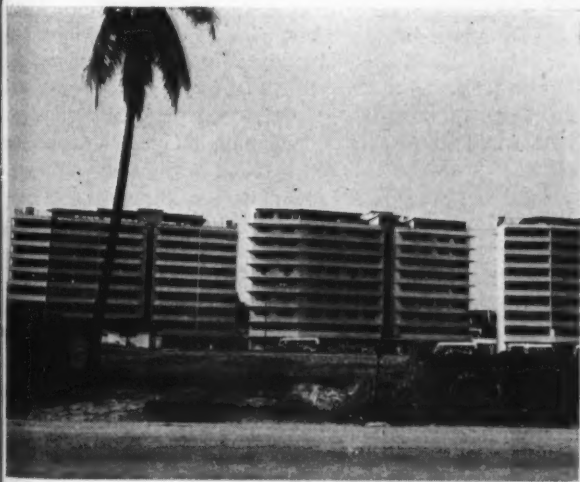


with the present situation where, for instance, one finds areas (Chinatown) with a thousand people per acre.

The Singapore Improvement Trust Reports show that before the Second World War this authority was regarded as the equivalent of a Municipal Department. Its budget was insignificant. To-day, it is a public authority with a staff of over thirty senior officers, about two hundred and seventy junior officers and a labouring staff of four hundred. Its budget for 1952 provided for an expenditure of M\$27 million.

The Architectural Department of SIT, during 1951, carried out building works equivalent to M\$12 million. By December of the same year the houses it had under construction represented a capital cost of about M\$20 million. The Trust still produces houses cheaper than private enterprise. This is achieved by a system of careful tendering on the basis of full specification, presentation of complete working drawings, details and schedule of prices, and prompt settlement of claims.

The Trust's work has, to a certain extent, been delayed by a sharp rise in building costs and, a few months ago, by a shortage of raw materials. Shortage of skilled hands added to the difficulties and, for that matter, the situation



Contrasts in housing in Singapore. New blocks of flats erected by the Singapore Improvement Trust and (above) old houses in a crowded quarter of Singapore



700 million

potential customers for the manufactured goods of the western world live between Cyprus and Japan. The vast material resources of the East are in turn vital to the productive industries of Europe and the West.

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is still relatively critical. The flow of suitable labour from Hong Kong and South China has ceased and replacements are impossible.

Nevertheless, SIT was able to complete 462 flats, 118 shops and 152 artisans' quarters. Over and above these, by January, 1952, 566 extra flats had been completed and were ready for habitation. At the same time, 1,582 flats, 79 shops and 448 artisans' quarters were under construction. The Trust spent approximately M\$12 million compared with M\$8 million in 1950 and M\$4 million in 1949. The value of the work under construction at December 31st, 1951, was M\$20,093,000. The 1953 figure should be much higher.

Another plan—that of the squatters—was also taken in hand by SIT. Before, during and after the war hundreds of homeless people began to congregate and live on Crown lands where they built huts with every possible type of material. These areas of hovels soon developed into slums where disease was rife. The Town Planning Organisation, of which Sir George Pepler is the consultant, decided to begin an orderly removal of these squatters to special districts where they now live in attap (woven nipah palm leaf) huts. When the scheme was first announced in October, 1952, it was decided that the tenants would be responsible for building their own houses and would be given reasonable security of tenure. They would not be required to move until the land was needed for further developmental purposes—in any case, not within ten years.

In the meanwhile the SIT also concentrated on its newly adopted policy of low cost housing under which tenders to build 1,172 houses were accepted. At that time also, the Malayan Chinese Association (MCA) offered an outright gift of M\$500,000 to the Singapore Government, to implement the plan at the earliest possible opportunity.

Owing to the necessity to conserve space, the tendency has been for many-storied buildings to take preference over the bungalow or single storey type of house. Multi-storey flats are now a Singapore landmark. One of the highest of these buildings is situated in the centre of Chinatown—at Upper Pickering Street. It is eight stories high and, together with another three of the same type, provides shops, houses and office space. These high buildings have refuse chutes, showers and, in the better class, gas and electricity.

On the other hand, the Trust has continued to build artisans' home outside the central area of the city. These are the cheapest permanent—or semi-permanent—structures that can be erected at a lower maintenance cost than any temporary structure. During 1951 the approximate cost of the actual frame, including walls, doors, windows, roof and cooking space, was approximately M\$1,500 for a floor area of 500 square feet, plus an enclosed, unroofed yard of 162 square feet. These quarters are built in terraces of four, six or eight laid out around turfed open spaces and planted with trees.

Private construction has also gone ahead and the Cathay, the GPO and some of the buildings on Collyer Quay—all considered the highest in the city—have now

been dwarfed by a sixteen-storey construction—almost completed—in the well-known Battery Road leading into Raffles Square, and by a fourteen-storey building at the opening of Shenton Avenue. They will provide office and shop space as well as housing of a more expensive type.

These massive constructions rest on pylons of reinforced concrete sunk many feet below street level. This is made necessary by the fact that the Singapore floor is marshy and gives way. The superstructures are usually of welded steel. Under the circumstances Precast and Vibro piling units are in continuous operation together with powerful pumps and complicated oxy-welding equipment and pneumatic hammers and drillers—mostly of British make.

The City President, in his Report for 1952, details of which have just been released, states that the annual value of Singapore City, in December, 1952, was M\$41,875,736—M\$7,500,000 more than on January 1st, 1952. Much of the increase was to be attributed to SIT and more than 6,857 Trust properties, with an annual value of M\$3,344,386 had now been assessed. But private builders have also helped a great deal to improve the housing situation. Not only have they built the huge construction just mentioned but, last year, Council approved 2,391 private building plans. The revenue received by the City Architect's Department was M\$652,307 compared with M\$463,502 for 1951.

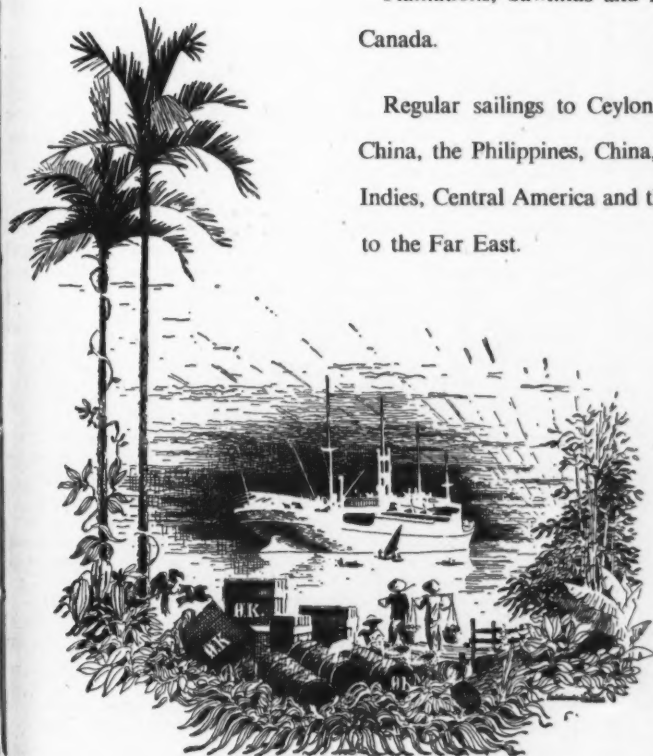
Of very great importance is the plan on which the City

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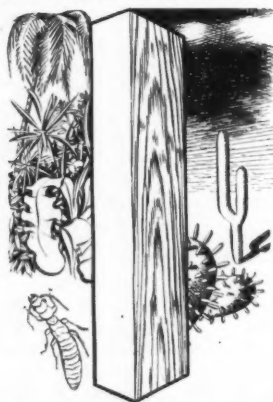
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Council is working now for a Fire Station, at Alexandra Road, which will cost approximately M\$1,500,000.

Related to housing is the problem of recreational facilities for the people. The Singapore Municipal Commissioners, by September, 1951, were proposing to spend nearly M\$2 million on parks, open spaces—the lungs of the city—playgrounds and swimming pools. The scheme contemplated included a M\$500,000 swimming pool at River Valley Road; the development (already in hand) of the Esplanade costing M\$600,000, and an Aquarium (under construction) for which it is proposed to spend M\$470,000.

THE U.K. PREFABRICATED BUILDING INDUSTRY AND THE EAST

BRITAIN'S prefabricated building industry which has multiplied the value of its exports by twelve during the last four years, is making further efforts to find new markets and to develop its exports. This year the industry participated for the first time at the BIF, at which over 20 firms of this industry exhibited their products. Overseas buyers, including those from Asia and the Far East, have shown great interest in the exhibited "prefabs," and your correspondent has been told by executives of several firms which have not in the past exported to South-East Asia, that since the BIF they have received a number of interesting enquiries from that region.

The industry has made efforts to adapt its products to the various climatic conditions, and a number of exhibited houses were specially designed for tropical countries, some of them consisting of Tanalised timber which offers good resistance against tropical weather conditions and termites.

At the BIF the industry has shown a very great range of products. In addition to fully-furnished bungalows and houses constructed on entirely new principles, complete structures and components which are used in export buildings ranging from huts to hangers for giant aircraft were shown.

Traditional building methods and the available labour force can no longer keep pace in meeting the urgent needs in countries which expand and develop their resources rapidly. Britain's prefab-industry is fully aware of the potential scope in the Asian and Pacific markets, and is determined to do its utmost to overcome the difficulties and to develop these markets. It is to be hoped Australia, which is the main market for British prefabricated houses (the annual value of these exports to Australia amounted to more than £4.6 million in 1951 and 1952), will relax the import restrictions, and that the UK industry will be able to contribute to ease the shortage of houses and other buildings there. In the past a large number of buildings of schools, hospitals, scientific laboratories, post offices and telephone exchanges were sent to Australia and New Zealand by The Bristol Aeroplane Company (Weston) Ltd., which also supplied an Air Terminal Building to New Zealand.

The Burmese Government Purchasing Mission, during its recent visit to London, placed a further order with the Arcon

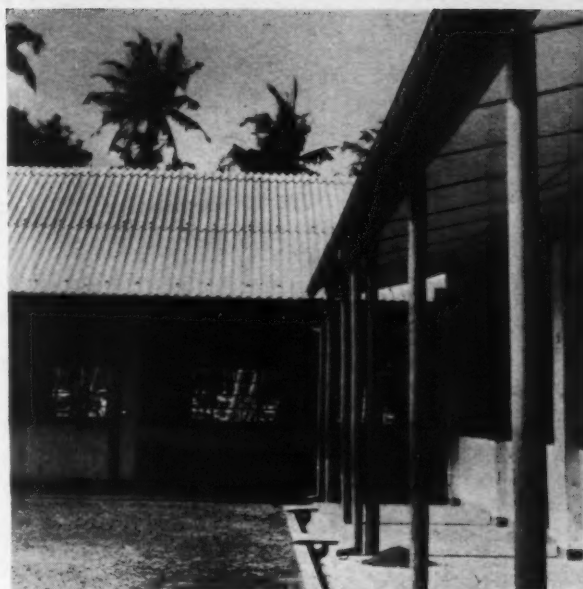
Group (Taylor Woodrow—Building Exports—Ltd.). This group's export earnings reached the £4 million mark during the last four years, whereby, in addition to countries of the Persian Gulf, Pakistan, Australia, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, India and Indonesia were important markets.

Among other exhibitors at the BiF who have already exported to South-East Asia, were Booth & Co. (England) Ltd. This firm supplied models of their prefabricated houses to India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Burma, while H. Newsum Sons & Co. Ltd. recently executed orders for large-scale developments in Australia. Trusteel Corporation (Overseas) Ltd., has been recently awarded a contract for thirteen hospital-buildings in Victoria, Australia.

A short time ago two-storey hospitals were erected in New Delhi by Reema Construction Ltd., London, whereby panels and other precast units were not shipped from the UK, as their weight makes the shipping uneconomical, but were manufactured locally. It is understood that several UK firms contemplate to make arrangements to manufacture the prefabs or parts of them in South-East Asian countries in order to avoid freight charges.

Asian buyers were impressed by the exhibits of the British prefab-industry, the designs, standardisation and short delivery terms. On the other hand the exhibitors, including Maycrete Ltd., Structural & Mechanical Development Engineers Ltd., Cruden Houses Ltd., Uni-Seco Ltd., K-D Homes (London) Ltd., expressed their interest in developing their exports to South-East Asia and the Pacific.

Among the UK firms active in South-East Asia, but not represented at this section of the BIF, were The Coseley Engineering Co. Ltd., Wolverhampton, manufacturers of standard steel framed buildings, and George Wimpey & Co. Ltd., London.



'Arcon' tropical roofing used for a school in Colombo

The latter firm completed recently the erection of houses by "Situfam" process at Klang, Malaya.

FINNISH PREFABRICATED BUILDING FOR ASIA

by Juho Savio

THE twentieth century has been characterized in all branches of life by exceedingly rapid technical advances. With the continual appearance of new inventions and the tendency to make nature more and more serve the purposes of man, a better prospect of living conditions for future generations is secured. But these advances have only too readily been harnessed for purposes of destruction, as the recent total war has shown. In this war, forming as it does the saddest chapter in the history of mankind, it was in civilian life that this destruction was most devastating. Homes, hospitals and schools suffered alike. If we pause to consider the present world-wide need for homes, hospitals and schools created by this destruction, we find occasion for no little surprise when presented with the fact that the general advance in building methods has been remarkably slow.

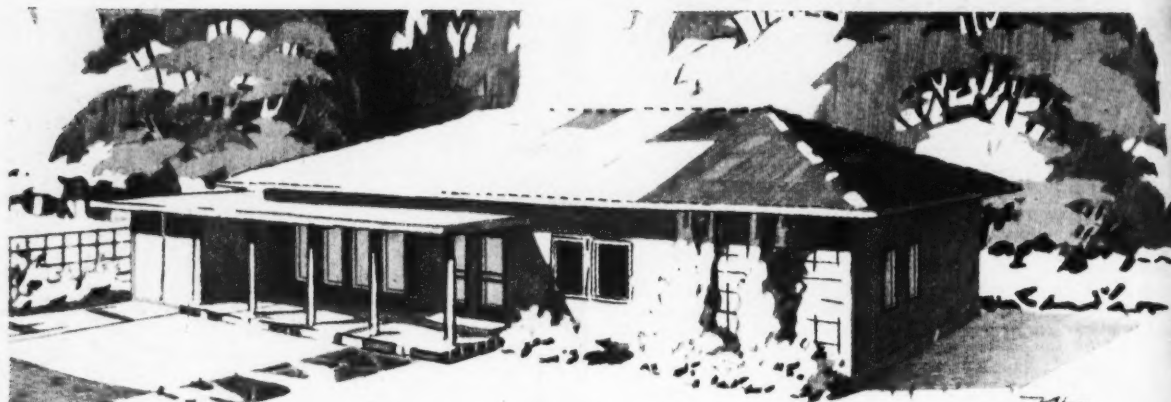
Even today it can be seen that building techniques are moving towards lighter constructions. This phenomenon is indeed a natural one: the impoverished world seems to have acknowledged the folly of erecting buildings to last for hundreds of years. Future generations will want to build according to their own requirements and their own ideas of living conditions. So today the cry is for "rationalization." Rationalization is applied to the designing of houses and to the manufacture of prefabricated house components. In this latter stage scientifically developed working methods can be exploited as efficiently as possible.

Rationalization is also applied to the cheap transportation of house components and even to the erection of houses themselves, as the work on the site can be given to unskilled labour.

These recent trends are also the main principles upon which the timber house industry is based. The building of houses with timber is traditional not only in North European countries but also in USA, Canada and the USSR, and it is easy therefore to see that acute shortage of housing would rapidly produce a prefabricated timber house industry in these countries, which has soon assumed the characteristics of large-scale industry.

Finland, one of the most richly timbered countries in the world, can draw on exceptionally suitable raw material for a timber house industry. The mass production of prefabricated buildings began in 1940 when about twenty separate factories decided to form a central planning and sales organization. This organization was called Puutalo Oy (Timber Houses Ltd.). Later other timber house factories joined the organization, and its activities since have been concerned mainly with the export of houses, barracks, schools, hospitals, health centres, shops, and so on, amounting to approximately 10 million square metres of floor area or more than 100 million square feet. Markets have been found in every continent, and prefabricated timber houses are to be seen in arctic, subtropical and tropical areas alike. It can also be said without exaggeration that considerably more than a million people live in houses delivered by Puutalo Oy, which today is undoubtedly the largest exporter of prefabricated timber buildings in the world.

The author is the Sales Manager of Puutalo Oy (Timber Houses Ltd.) Helsinki, Finland.



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If we consider for a moment the variety in climatic conditions, ways of living and architectural requirements throughout the world, we soon realize that the designing of houses for different countries will give rise to many problems other than the problems of construction. Experience has proved the necessity for co-operation between the manufacturing organisation and the architects and engineers of the countries concerned if successful results are to be achieved. The regular staff of Puutalo Oy includes about sixty architects, engineers and technical experts, all experienced in the solving of innumerable problems connected with the search for buildings suitable for a great variety of local conditions. Further, Puutalo Oy now has a range including more than 2,000 different types of houses, and this range is constantly being extended by the creation of new types.

As a result it is possible to go a very long way in the direction of satisfying the wishes of clients. The houses as such are not standardised, as they are assembled from components that are

standardised. Some very interesting answers have been obtained with combined constructions, based on the use of timber in conjunction with stone—brick, reinforced concrete or light concrete.

Exports to the countries of Asia were started only three years ago when the first model houses were sent there. Up to the present, export to Asia amounts to 1,650,000 sq. ft. of floor area to the subtropical region and 280,000 sq. ft. of floor area to the tropical region, making a total of 1,930,000 sq. ft. of floor area to the whole continent.

The experience gained in these markets can only be described as positive, for it is clear that more and more buyers now understand the considerable advantages of prefabricated buildings. These advantages reveal themselves most markedly in concentrated areas of prefabricated buildings. In such concentrated areas the saving in production costs when this production is in series is a saving enjoyed entirely by the buyer.

CURRENT ISSUES OF JAPAN'S ECONOMY

by a Special Correspondent at Tokyo

WHEN, after Stalin's death, the armistice talks in Korea were renewed and it seemed likely that they might lead to practical results, Japanese industrialists and traders became highly nervous, lest the abrupt ending of American Special Procurement connected with the hostilities in Korea should deal a serious blow to Japan's economy. Special Procurement had paid for a huge deficit in foreign trade—amounting to some 700 million dollars during 1952. Washington hastened to assure Japan that

Procurement Orders would not decrease considerably for at least two more years to come, even if hostilities in Korea should cease. However, as the talks in Panmunjom went on, it became increasingly clear to the business world in Japan that the boom they were enjoying—and which incidentally, is one of the reasons of Japan's spectacular recovery since the end of World War II—was nothing but a temporary accident. No stable economic policy could be built upon that windfall.

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Even without supplies to the American forces in the Far East, Japan's foreign trade has been on the decline for some time. Relevant proof has been forthcoming in the form of a "White Paper" published by the Ministry for International Trade and Industry (MITI). This publication gives a rather gloomy analysis and forecast for Japan's international economic relations and stresses the urgent necessity for re-orientation. Exports in 1952 decreased by 6 per cent in value compared with 1951 figures, but increased 5.7 per cent in volume. Imports, during the same period, decreased 1 per cent in value, but increased 14.5 per cent in volume. These figures indicate the shrinking of Japan's foreign trade, and are causing grave concern. There are several reasons for these developments. Apart from the fact that there is a world-wide trend towards the shrinking of foreign trade, some countries have restricted the import of Japanese consumer goods in order to protect their domestic industries. Japanese prices for iron and steel products are high and uncompetitive. Japanese industries, having been cut off from the rest of the world, have become rather obsolete in some of their production processes. A high rate of interest and extensive dependability on credits add to financing difficulties and keep prices high.

Efforts are being made by both Japan and the United States to alleviate the difficulties arising from a receding export trade and the impending shift in Special Procurement Orders. The most important issue is Japan's participation in MSA assistance. As a result of rather clumsy handling by the Government this has become a controversial question. Mr. Dulles' speech on May 5 indicating that appropriations had already been allocated to Japan in the current MSA budget came as a surprise to most people here. There had been discussions in Washington prior to Mr. Dulles' announcement, but the public had not been informed about this development and resented this kind of "secret dealings". Japanese misgivings about MSA aid stem from the possibility of strings being attached to the assistance, mainly in respect of the maintenance of armed forces and their use. However, the overriding question will be: If MSA should not be acceptable to Japan, what substitute can be found to stop the gap resulting from the decrease in Special Procurement demands?

Trade with Mainland China is widely considered as the panacea for Japan's trade ills. Japanese traders and industrialists put high hopes into the relaxation of restrictions imposed on Japan's trade with the Chinese mainland. During 1952 Japan sold to China goods valued at \$600,000

as against \$6,000,00 in 1951 and \$19,000,000 in 1950. It is stressed that during 1952 Italy's sales to China exceeded \$18,000,000, those of Great Britain \$12,000,000 and even Belgium sold to China goods to the value of \$6,000,000. The Japanese naturally wonder why they are not allowed to trade freely with China. And the second question is, of course, for how long can the United States resist Japan's pressure to enable her to trade again with China? Here, recently, an interesting new development took place. While, until not so long ago, the Americans were adamant in their objections to relaxations on Japan's China trade and suggested increased trade with South-East Asia and Latin America as a substitute, they now seem to be tired of arguing with the Japanese that apart from its political undesirability the results of Japan's trade with China would not meet Japanese expectations. The United States appear now to be inclined to prove their point in practice. Mutual Security Administrator Harold Stassen has stated: "It is difficult, if not impossible, to prohibit Japan from resuming their trade relations with China for any long duration." Here—it is argued—lies the fallacy of Japanese expectations. Japan hopes to obtain from China coking coal, iron ore, soya beans, oil seeds, hog bristles and a number of other important raw materials, against supplies of textiles, ready made goods and equipment. Japan speaks of "resuming" trade relations with China thinking in terms of her predominant position in China's economy before and during the war, when she could trade with China on her own terms. In the meantime, however, things have happened in China, too:— Industries, mainly textile production, have increased remarkably. European countries, amongst them Russia and East European countries, have become important suppliers for China. Consequently, Japan may find it extremely difficult to compete with them despite her geographical nearness.

Then, there is Japan's participation in the reconstruction of Korea which offers prospects of compensation against the loss of Special Procurement orders. Enormous supplies will be required to repair war-ravaged Korea—building materials, power equipment, communications, not to speak of the demand for clothing and shelter for the people of Korea. But here again, Japan's desire and ability to supply a great deal of these demands will not be sufficient to enable her hopes to materialize. Korea is rather suspicious of Japanese intentions to trade with her—and so are other countries in South-East Asia. Japan time and again states her preparedness to take an active part in the development of the whole of South-East Asia. She substantiates her declarations by technical missions, credit offers and long term agreements. However, the people of South-East Asia have not yet forgotten Japan's "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" and the results of the implementation of that programme. They are reluctant to take Japanese assurances at their face value lest Japan should come back as a colonial power. Reparation agreements will have to be concluded, mainly with the Philippines and with Indonesia, to show Japan's goodwill towards the countries of South-East Asia before the latter accept Japan as a partner in their development schemes.

Company Meeting

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Sir Strati Ralli's Statement

The 23rd annual general meeting of The Orion Insurance Company, Ltd., was held on July 16 at 70/72, King William Street, London, E.C.4, Sir Strati Ralli, Bart., M.C. (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. R. H. J. Westoby) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The following is the statement by the chairman which had been circulated with the report and accounts for the year ended Dec. 31, 1952:

Before commenting on the results of the company for the year now under review, I take this opportunity of extending a very cordial welcome to our two new directors, Mr. W. A. Osborne and Mr. A. P. B. Guinness, whose re-election to the board you will be asked to approve at the coming annual general meeting. Mr. Osborne's name is well known in insurance circles and he has had a wide experience, over many years, of all classes of insurance business. Mr. Guinness is one of the younger partners in the merchant banking firm of Guinness, Mahon & Co. We are confident that these gentlemen, in their separate capacities, have a valuable contribution to make to the successful administration of your company's affairs.

I am also glad to inform you that, with effect from Apr. 28, 1953, Mr. Dudley Rybot Scholey has been appointed deputy-chairman of the board and of the company.

In October, 1952, your company agreed to act as aviation underwriters in the United Kingdom for The Victoria Insurance Company, Ltd., of Melbourne, and, with effect from Jan. 1, 1953, to act in the same capacity for the New India Assurance Company, Ltd., of Bombay.

You will have seen from notices published in the Press earlier this year (a print of which has been enclosed with the accompanying accounts) that your company, in conjunction with certain insurance friends and associated concerns, participated in the formation of a new insurance company under the name of the "Sphere Insurance Company, Limited." Your company has a substantial, although not a controlling, interest in the "Sphere" and has agreed to act as marine and aviation underwriters for that company.

MARINE DEPARTMENT

In the marine department the net premium income for 1952 amounted to £1,265,009 compared with £1,215,517 for 1951.

Total claims paid amounted to 78 per cent. of premiums compared with 84 per cent. in 1951, and expenses of management to 6.4 per cent. compared with 5.8 per cent. last year.

The sum of £40,000 has been transferred to profit and loss account out of the 1950 closed underwriting account.

The marine fund now stands at £1,375,474 (108.7 per cent.).

For reasons which are well known and have already been widely commented upon in reports of insurance companies this year, conditions in the marine market remain difficult and settlements at the end of the second year of our 1951 underwriting account indicate that this will prove a lean one.

The 1952 account, to date, shows some improvement in settlements although the account may not yet have borne the full burden of its share of the unfortunate and costly series of marine casualties which were sustained in the winter of 1952/53 and of the severe losses which arose from the disastrous floods experienced in February this year.

FIRE, ACCIDENT AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT

The net premium income in this account for 1952 amounted to £866,057 compared with £827,080 for 1951.

The increase in premium income of £38,977 is due to a substantial increase in the direct fire and accident business written by the company in the London market and through overseas agencies, offset by an agreed reduction in the excess of loss reinsurance business in which our company has for many years specialised. It is the board's policy to bring about a better balance between direct and reinsurance business within this account and progress in this direction, during the past year, has been satisfactory.

Claims incurred worked out at 79 per cent. on earned premium income compared with 85 per cent. for 1951 and 92 per cent. for 1950. Commission and expenses together absorbed 18 per cent. as compared with 15 per cent. The account generally has had a more favourable experience than last year and after maintaining the unexpired risks reserve on our usual conservative basis of 50 per cent., which has involved a financing charge of £19,488, has yielded a modest profit of £28,268.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

After bringing in gross interest and dividends of £116,410 (£109,377) and the transfers from revenue accounts of £68,268 (£87,465) and after deducting directors' fees £1,933 (£2,000), other expenses and audit fee £29,101 (£27,671), overseas taxation £3,853 (£2,590) and providing the sum

of £110,000 (£145,000) for United Kingdom taxation, the net balance for the year amounts to £39,791 (£19,581). To this has been added the sum of £87,691 brought forward from 1951 making a balance of £127,482 available for distribution.

Your directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent., less income tax, for the year 1952 (same) which requires a net sum of £22,000 and, after transferring £2,000 to provision for staff contingencies, there remains a balance of £103,482 to be carried forward.

BALANCE SHEET

The total of invested funds as shown in the balance sheet is £3,031,093, of which a large proportion is held in short-dated Government securities.

Despite a further fall in security prices in 1952 the market value or, where there is no quotation, the estimated value, of our investments at Dec. 31, 1952, was in excess of their balance sheet value.

The total assets of the company now stand at £4,860,569 compared with £4,342,722 last year.

GENERAL REMARKS

The company's business has undergone considerable expansion over the past five years in every direction and your directors are of the opinion that the time has again come when the issued capital of the company should be further increased. It is proposed, therefore, immediately following the annual general meeting, to invite shareholders to subscribe for a further 50,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each at par in the ratio of one new Ordinary share for every eight Ordinary shares held, and provisional letters of allotment will be sent out in due course. The new shares will not, of course, rank for any part of the dividend recommended for the year 1952, but, otherwise, will rank *pari passu* with the existing Ordinary shares. The effect of this will be to increase the issued and paid-up capital of the company to £450,000.

In closing, I know you will wish me to place on record our appreciation of the very good services rendered to the company throughout the past year by the management, senior officials and all members of our staff.

To all our friends, both at home and overseas, many of whom we have had the pleasure of seeing in London during the past year, we also tender our thanks for the valued support they have given us and for their continued efforts on behalf of the company throughout the past year.

The report and accounts were adopted and the dividend of 10 per cent., less tax was approved.

The retiring directors, Mr. A. P. B. Guinness, Mr. W. A. Osborne and Sir Strati Ralli, Bart., M.C., were re-elected.

The proposed increase of capital was approved and the other formal business having been duly transacted, the proceedings terminated.

DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT

by A. James

THE Damodar Valley Project is described in India's First Five Year Plan as the major project within the Ganga River system. The Government of Bengal set up the Damodar Valley Inquiry Commission in 1943, which was followed up by a Conference of the Governments of Bengal, Bihar and India in January, 1945. Further conferences followed, a scheme of a multi-purpose project on the lines of the Tennessee Valley Authority has been adopted, and in 1948 The Damodar Valley Corporation Act was passed. Later this multi-purpose project which constitutes one of the major river valley schemes of India was incorporated in the Five Year Plan.

The Government of India gives priority to the execution of the multi-purpose projects in order to increase the area under irrigation and to produce more cheap electric power. The authors of the Five Year Plan emphasised the fact that while the population of the areas comprising the present Indian Union has increased from 235.5 millions in 1901 to 356.9 millions in 1951, only a small increase in cultivated area took place during the same period. The Planning Commission had calculated that it will be necessary to double the area under irrigation within the next 15 to 20 years if the food problem is to be solved.

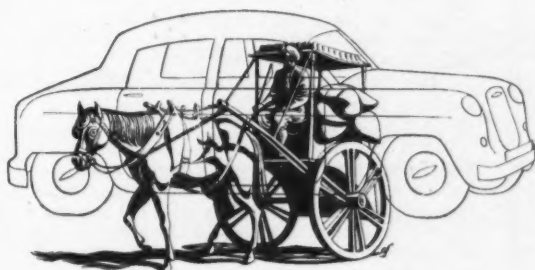
It must be noted that the use of multi-purpose reservoirs is a comparatively recent development. The success of a great unified scheme of multi-purpose reservoirs in the Tennessee Valley made "basin-wide multi-purpose development" very popular. While, however, the Tennessee scheme includes almost no irrigation, the possibilities of technical and financial success for such

projects in Asia and the Far East are particularly great, as most of them provide for the utilisation of part of the stored water for irrigation purposes. While in the past multi-purpose reservoirs were constructed in India for irrigation and power only and some flood control resulted as a by-product, the Damodar Valley project represents an example of an outstanding scheme of unified development of a river valley, in which a part of the reservoir capacity has been reserved for flood control, in addition to that reserved for irrigation, navigation and power.

At the beginning of July, 1953, the Damodar Valley Corporation, an autonomous body entrusted with the biggest multi-purpose project in India, marked the fifth anniversary of its existence, and a review of the progress achieved is, therefore, appropriate.

The scheme envisages an ultimate aim and a first phase of development. The ultimate aim is to control the Damodar and its tributaries by construction of eight dams with a total reservoir capacity of 4.7 million acre-feet (an acre-foot represents the volume of water sufficient to cover an acre of land with one foot depth of water) and thus to prevent floods in the lower reaches, to irrigate 1.1 million acres of land, to produce hydro-electric power, and to facilitate navigation from and to Calcutta.

The first phase of development includes the construction of four dams, the Bokara Thermal Station as well as of the Durgapur barrage and the transmission line system. The following surveys give some details of the targets of the first phase which are to be achieved by 1955-56 (i.e., the end of India's first Five Year Plan) and the actual progress made.



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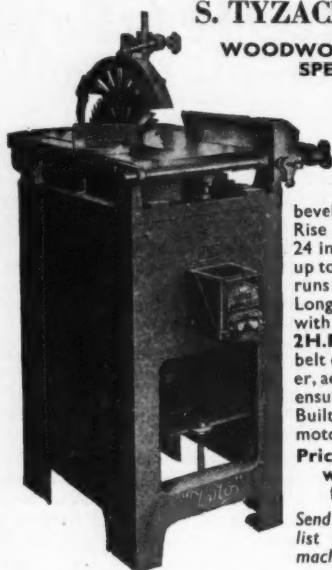
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The magnitude of the project can be seen from the fact that in addition to the described details, six townships with more than 2,000 buildings with modern amenities, 100 miles of new roads and eleven bridges have already been completed.

An expenditure of Rs. 292.2 million has been incurred during 1951-3 period, bringing the total up-to-date expenditure on this project to about Rs. 450 million. Mr. Eugene Black, the President of the World Bank, referring to the loans made by the Bank for the execution of this project said recently that he was impressed by its potentialities and by the energy and devotion of the public and private organisations responsible for its growth. He added that within the next few years the project will bring tangible social and economic benefits to the people of India.

THE BOKARA THERMAL STATION

The original plan provided for a capacity of 150,000 kW, and the Station had to include three generating sets of 50,000 kW each and six boilers of 300,000 lbs/hr capacity each. The Station has been inaugurated in February, 1953, and the first unit of 50,000 kW has been put into operation. The further two units of 50,000 kW are to be completed shortly, and provision has been made for a further unit of 50,000 kW.

THE TILAIYA DAM AND A HYDRO-POWER STATION

The dam was inaugurated by Prime Minister Nehru on February 21, 1953, and the power station with two generating sets of 2,000 kW each has also been commissioned. 5,000 acres of land were irrigated during the fiscal year 1952-3. This dam is the first large concrete dam to be built in India. The completion took only two years which is a remarkable success.

The plant for the hydro-power station was ordered in Japan and the execution of the whole Damodar project can be called a symposium of international experience and skill, as leading firms of India, the UK, USA, Germany and Japan are participating in design and supply of goods to carry out this project.

THE KONAR DAM

The water reservoir which will provide cooling water for the Bokara Thermal Station will be ready in the second half of 1953 and more than half of the earth work and about two-thirds of the concrete laying work has been already done.

THE MAITHON DAM WITH A POWER HOUSE

The winter flow of the river has been diverted through tunnel and work on the right dyke is nearing completion. The dam is expected to be completed by the middle of 1954, while the hydro-electric station will be ready by the beginning of 1955.

THE PANCHET HILL DAM

The work is still in the early stages, and completion scheduled for 1955-56.

TRANSMISSION LINE SYSTEM

Over 150 miles of the main transmission lines have already been erected, and satisfactory progress made on the erection of further 92 miles. Five grid sub-stations have already been brought into operation. It is noteworthy that the original scheme of 1945 has been extended considerably and that the present scheme provides for the erection of 510 miles including 375 miles of 132 KV and additional sub-stations.

DURGAPUR BARRAGE AND CANALS

Construction work began at the end of last year, and making good progress.

The opposite picture shows a heavy building crane with tons capacity, the max. radius is 125 ft. At this radius loads up to 14 tons can be lifted.

The Hamburg crane building firm Kampnagel Aktiengesellschaft (vorm. Nagel & Kaemp) delivered two cranes of this type to the Damodar Valley Corporation. The cranes will be used in the construction of the Maithon Dam.

The cranes are of a very modern type, equipped with individual drive for 400-V, a.c. contactor controllers and bearings, electric capacity required is 550 kW. Their construction permits an easy dismantling for transportation, and also whole electrical control equipment is fitted in a transportable machine house.

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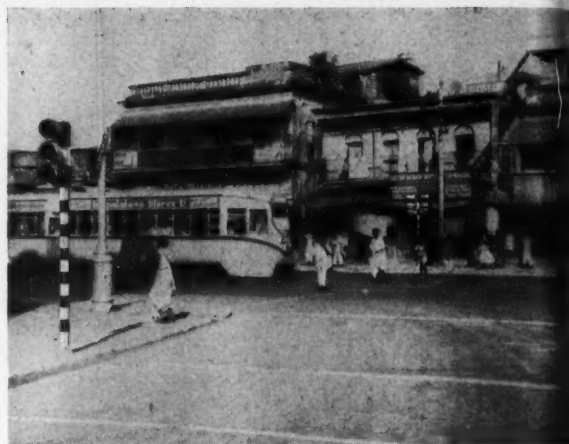
ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNALS IN THE FAR EAST

It is not generally appreciated that many cities in the Far East have adopted modern methods of road traffic control by means of signals, operated by vehicle actuation, or manually, or by an automatic F.T.C. (fixed time cycle) system.

Fully vehicle actuated signal systems are preferable to manual or F.T.C. systems, but economic considerations have to be borne in mind when determining the form of control to be adopted. There are however, a number of vehicle actuated signal installations operating in the Far East, notably the Autoflex equipment in Kuala Lumpur and Penang, but for the most part F.T.C. apparatus has been chosen with occasionally a manually operated set where conditions are more suited to this form of control.

Calcutta was one of the first cities of the east to instal road signals. In 1934 equipment supplied by the Siemens and General Electric Railway Signal Co. Ltd., was installed at the junction of Chowringhee Road-Park Street; Mayo Road-Outram Road and Kidd Street, and controlled manually by a policeman. Although a complicated crossing, the signals were such a success that a number of constables were withdrawn from traffic control duties, and as time passed and the form of control was recognised by all concerned, it was decided to convert the control of the intersection to the fixed time cycle system. This modification has recently been carried out and the installation is now worked by a three-phase controller (the word "phase" in this connection refers to a traffic phase or right-of-way), so that it will not be necessary to retain even one constable should the authorities desire the signals to operate automatically.

The success of their first installation encouraged the Calcutta authorities to install manually controlled signals at each end of the Howrah Road Bridge over the River Hooghly, and then, in view of the pressing need during recent years to improve traffic control in the city, to install S.G.E. signals at many other inter-



Traffic signals in operation in Calcutta

sections in the centre of Calcutta. These later installations are of the F.T.C. type and have been adopted in preference to vehicle actuated signals for economic reasons.

The experience of Calcutta is typical of other Far Eastern authorities. Singapore has many intersections controlled by F.T.C. signals which have been operating successfully for some years. Penang recognised the benefit obtained by the use of road signals and has installed a number of sets in recent months. Hong Kong tried out road signal control with a set of manually operated signals in 1949, but has since decided to use F.T.C. signals. Madras and Poona are other authorities which have adopted the F.T.C. system of traffic control.



A clear indication to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic is essential in maintaining an even flow of movement with safety and expedition. S. G. E. have provided signalling equipment for many intersections at home and overseas. The illustration above shows the busy Chowringhee—Park Street junction in Calcutta, a typically successful installation handling traffic of a very diverse character.

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